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Whitcomb, M. D.

*"Should auld acquaintance be forgot?"*

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# A Half Century in Scranton

Pa.

BY

BENJAMIN H. THROOP, M. D.

SCRANTON, PA., 1895.



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TO  
MANY FRIENDS,  
WHO HAVE TAKEN A DEEP INTEREST IN MY RECOLLECTIONS OF  
"A HALF CENTURY IN SCRANTON," THIS VOLUME  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY  
THE AUTHOR.



## PREFACE.

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*In putting into permanent form some of the recollections of half a century of Scranton's history, I have but acceded to the requests of numerous friends, who have frequently asked me to expand the notes read before the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, nearly a decade ago. As a volume it is unpretentious. It does not claim to be a history, or a compendium of specific information concerning the valley; it presents, rather, some characteristic incidents and experiences in a perspective of fifty years, although every date and material fact has been carefully verified. Even the accomplishment of this scarcely ambitious task would have been impracticable at this period, had I not been able to secure the assistance of Mr. Marion Stuart Cann, whose skill and experience have relieved me of much of the tedious detailed work which age and business prevented my attempting. A number of others have been equally courteous in giving such aid as lay in their power, for which all have my sincere thanks. Much is necessarily omitted that might have proved of interest, had not the size of the volume already far exceeded the original intention; nevertheless, if these notes repay the perusal of the kind friends who have urged their publication, I shall be well repaid the time and labor which has been required.*

*B. H. T.*

## ERRATA.

Page 102.—Read *Son-in-Law*, *Selden T. Scranton*, for brother-in-law.

Page 113.—Read *Mr.* for Mrs. Scranton.

Page 122.—Read *Boyle's* for O'Boyle's store.

Page 161.—Read *Isaac C.* for Eli K. Price.

Page 200.—Read *Brewster Hackerly* for Luther Ackerly.

Page 338—Read 1858 for 1558.

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## CHAPTER FIRST.

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### NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

A Nineteenth Century Phenomenon, the Evolution of a City—A Decade of Prejudice—A Struggling Industry—A Fortuitous Sneer—The Laws of Location Discussed—Scranton's Geographical Position—The Natural Outlets and the Site—Sanitation, Water Supply and Climate—Science Put Poetically—The Value of the Coal Measures—Coal and the Visible Supply—Culm Consumption—The Iron and Steel Industry—Scranton's Stability—An Explanatory Word.

THE evolution of a metropolitan city out of what was almost a primitive wilderness, within the brief span allotted to one man's mature life is a phenomenon that has never been recorded upon the pages of history until this close of the Nineteenth Century. Within my recollection, Scranton has been developed from a handful of hardy pioneers, sparsely scattered over a wide area, or collected in three scanty hamlets, thoroughly rural in every particular, to a teeming city of over eighty thousand inhabitants, the commercial center of half a million of people, and one of the proudest and most progressive daughters of the Keystone State. Within less than five de-

acades, the few quiet, unpretentious homes of comparative poverty that nestled in the fertile valley, or perched upon the rugged hillside have given place to palatial residences and the comfortable quarters of the well to do. The broad stump-stippled clearings that, within my memory, returned but a scanty living to the tilling of a single farmer and his hard working family, now give remunerative employment to thousands engaged in a hundred diversified industries. The still covers that hid the brooding quail, the frond-secreted pool where the doe taught her fawn to drink, the pond where the lily-pads danced to a frog chorus that rivaled Aristophenes, all have disappeared, and in their stead, is vista after vista of magnificent buildings, flanking gleaming streets flecked by the forms of a busy city. The half-opened roads of my early memory are laid in steel, breakers lift their solemn heads where stately pines once stood, the shriek of the locomotive and the clanging gong of the electric car break a stillness erstwhile disturbed only by the song of the birds or the whirl of a partridge wing. The transformation has been Alladin-like; yet the factors are simple. The chief ones have been boundless courage, indomitable perseverance, alertness to see an advantage and profit by an idea, an earnest purpose, active cooperation, and a due appreciation of the natural advantages of its location and environment.



The first decade within the scope of my memory reveals this section as almost entirely an agricultural community, with little industrial spirit awakened by the progress that had been made up the valley, and some lingering of the prejudice against corporations which beset the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, in its early history. The only manufacture at Slocum's Hollow—that of whiskey—had been abandoned, and the handicrafts pursued were those of any other rural settlement. A decade later, although the industrial spirit had begun to manifest itself, the nucleus of the town was an insignificant village, with a single struggling concern, which was a butt of ridicule and a target for the boorish wit and sarcasm of the surrounding territory. In the next decade this had given way to a respectable recognition that there were potent forces at work, and a partial recognition of the commercial achievements possible; and there had been a general awakening. The leaven of indomitable enterprise had accelerated the fulfillment of natural laws, enthusiasm had been aroused, and each year was marking a decided and decisive advancement.

It has been said of some of the great American cities that have grown up within a comparatively short period that they were born to good luck, and that whenever circumstances have conspired

to retard progress, whenever hard times and deep depressions over extended areas have compelled curtailment of aggressive enterprise, something new has unexpectedly happened to give fresh impetus to vigorous growth. Within the last few months, a magazine article of felicitous phrase cited Scranton, among other cities, as an example of fortuitous growth from untoward circumstances, and seemed to imply that its development was a matter of chance rather than the direct outcome of laws and conditions inexorable so far as local environment went. In support of this specious fallacy and rank injustice, the writer cited the fact that the city owed its inception, and that of the principal industry which is inseparably interwoven with its earlier history, to the purely false assumption that it had valuable workable deposits of iron ore in the immediate vicinity, and adds sententiously that "because it *unexpectedly happened* that good coal mines were *discovered* it became a great city." The words are italicised not so much to emphasize this covert sneer of ignorance and prejudice as to draw attention to the true conditions and the bearing they have on the future as well as the past. The old saw about the unexpected always happening, like many another of the trite and commonplace proverbs of the class to which it belongs, expresses exactly what is not true. The location of cities, and their prosperity and progress are neither

accidental, nor are they determined by man's design. The mighty forces which have been shaping the destiny of the human race since it first awoke in its Asiatic cradle, and have impelled, through thousands of years, such shifting and readjustment of nations, centers of populations, and local centers of accretion and distribution as were necessary for the advancement of civilization and the elevation of the race, have kept perfect step, in true scientific unison with progress, and determine inexorably where cities shall be built for the greatest good of the greatest number, which is the true symmetry of Nature's God; and the more thorough our understanding of these forces, and the modes by which they act, and the more conformable our plans to them, the more enduring the local triumphs of progress and prosperity. In the advance from the primitive simplicity of a semi-barbaric state to all the intricate complexities and highly vitalized, sympathetic interdependence of modern commercial life—from the barter of actual necessities of life to the elaborate business and fiscal systems of to-day, the trend has been in the direction of economic methods of production, and the constant curtailment of waste, either of labor or its fruits. Certain facilities, both natural and acquired, for certain lines of development mean definite progress in that direction. This may be accelerated by the judicious propulsion of well di-

rected industry, energy and enterprise applied parallel to the natural lines. That Scranton has done this with magnificent success in the past, none will deny. That with the present impetus of her supremacy the close of the century will show a phenomenal advancement far beyond the most sanguine dreams of her most enthusiastic prophets is as little open to doubt; but it will not be the happening of the unexpected.

Scranton owes much to its geographical position. Situated one hundred and forty-six miles from New York, one hundred and sixty-seven from Philadelphia, and three hundred and seventeen from Pittsburgh, it is not in danger of being checked in its development by these older and larger business centers; yet they are sufficiently accessible to meet all the requirements of trade. The picturesque and fertile valley in which it lies has a large area of almost identical interests, since the mountains that wall it in outline the Lackawanna coal basin, which is but a continuation of the Wyoming. Beyond them lie some of the best agricultural and timber lands in this portion of the state. Flowing with many a graceful curve through the center of the valley is the stream from which it takes its name, formerly a body of spring water of about twice its present volume, abounding in fish of every variety, and particularly noted for its brook

trout. It takes its name from the Indian tongue, and signifies the meeting of two streams, and the records give it several appellations, none of which, however, are as musical and liquid as the one it has retained, and which seems to suggest the pristine loveliness that I recall, when it hid among the laurels and rhododendrons, glided silently by the mast-like pines, laughed and trebled over the gravelly bars, and danced along in the sunshine unpolluted by the mine water and sewerage which have killed every living thing in it for some years. The mountain wall which shuts the valley out from the rest of the world is pierced by several tributaries, and these, which form with the river, the only outlets for traffic, so occur that the principal lines, both of rail and wagon ways, intersect each other at the most eligible site for a city. Leggett's Creek, named in honor of one of the old settlers, whose birch bark hut was upon its banks, is a picturesque stream that has cut for itself a deep channel in the rocks, and affords not only the easiest grade and passage by vehicle to the fertile farms of Abington, among which it rises, but the gap through which the main line of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad passes north. The Roaring Brook, which comes thundering down from the Moosic Mountains on the southeast, has made a similar natural cut in the deep ravine that it has channeled there. As the other outlets are at the

ends of the crescent-shaped valley, all lines converge at Scranton. The topography of the nineteen and odd square miles within the city limits presents a great variety of contour. In the northern portion, the river flows through the broad meadows that were once the site of the Indian village of Capouse, and which now form most available sites for manufacturing industries. On either hand, the hills rise up, terraced at some points, quite abruptly at others, and thus there is highland, lowland and hillside, all of which have their offices in making an attractive city. As the river approaches the central portion of the city, its banks rise up some forty or fifty feet, forming on both sides terrace-like plateaux upon which the principal business houses are located. Then come gentle undulations for residence streets, imposing heights for palatial homes and public institutions, and, still beyond, the free blue hills, threaded with romantic glens, and reached by picturesque drives. Nature has been generous in every particular. In every portion of the city, there are like diversity of conditions, and all tend to the production of a healthful, happy city. Within the past year or two, much attention has been paid to the improvement of the natural capacities. The bridges and viaducts in contemplation, the preserving of proper parks, the improving and construction of attractive drives, all are import-



ant matters, and should receive both public and private attention.

The drainage is excellent, and sewer sanitation is accomplished at a minimum expense. While there are many commanding elevations, so judiciously has the city been platted, that all are accessible through easy grades, so slight that the electric cars surmount the steepest ascents without the aid of any inclines or other expensive contrivances. The river bed is over eight hundred feet above tide water, and the valley is fanned in the hottest days by cool, fresh breezes of pure mountain air; yet so thoughtfully has Nature arranged the surrounding hills, that an abundant supply of the purest spring water flows naturally from the well nigh inexhaustible reservoirs above, to the highest points within the city limits, and an effective fire pressure can always be obtained without pumping, except under special conditions. Malaria is almost unknown, except when imported, or due to very limited local conditions, and the general health of the city is remarkable.

Beyond the walls of hills, and at the entrances of the valley, there are fine agricultural regions contiguous, and the freshest products of farm and garden can be put in the market within a few hours after gathering, and all of these conditions

are supplemented by the many trains that connect it daily with the seaboard, and place the delicacies of other latitudes within reach of all at moderate prices within five hours after they arrive at New York.

Scranton is situated a little west of the geographical center of the county, though the Court House stands nearly in the center of what was formerly the Borough of Scranton, and, as ascertained by the United States Geodetic and Coast Survey, in 1885, is in latitude forty-one degrees, twenty-four minutes and twenty-nine seconds north; and longitude seventy-five degrees, thirty-nine minutes and forty-seven seconds west of Greenwich; and is seven hundred and forty-five feet above sea level. It is within a zone of frequent rain-falls, though it has not an extreme humidity; and as the prevailing winds are from the northwest, it escapes extremes of temperature. The climate is mild and salubrious, though there is sufficient bracing weather to give that tonic effect so necessary to general health and vigor. In this combination of general advantages it is unique.

One of the principal factors in Scranton's growth was poetically, yet, withal, scientifically, put a few years ago in the musings of a college president, who, after an absence of thirty-five years, spent a

busy day in being shown about the city and its environs. He had been surprised beyond measure with its stupendous industries, the great volume of capital invested, its imposing commercial houses, strong banks, magnificent churches and schools, palatial residences, complete system of rapid transit, its beautiful county and municipal buildings, its eleemosynary institutions and all those things of which its citizens naturally feel proud. As he inhaled his evening cigar, he turned and exclaimed: "To think that all of the magnificence, beauty, brightness, happiness, comfort and activity in peace I have seen to-day was born of God's loving sunshine of millions of years ago!"

He but stated in pleasant imagery the generally accepted theory of the formation of those black diamonds that have been the chief source of all the industrial, commercial and intellectual supremacy which has wrought the changes I have witnessed. The wealth, the luxury, the triumphs of arts and manufactures—in fact the material progress of the century is in a great measure due to the coal, which is the embodiment of a power more potent than that attributed to the fabulous genii of Oriental tales. It is not fitting here to enter into a discussion of the processes of its formation, and the methods by which it composed and concentrated into itself the dynamic energies that fell

upon the tissues of "those strange trees that lifted their scaly trunks and waved their feathery foliage over the marshy shores of the carboniferous continent, where not only man was not, but where gigantic salamanders and mail-clad fishes were the monarchs of the animated world." Such matters are fully and clearly discussed in works of the ablest scientists of the day. It is sufficient to recall the fact that the Lackawanna coal basin proper contains about three hundred and twenty-seven feet of the coal measures, with a total of twenty feet at the northern end, and a thickness of thirteen feet of coal at Carbondale; six hundred and thirty-three feet of measures with a thickness of sixty-seven feet of coal at Scranton; and eight hundred and sixteen feet of measures, with eighty-five feet of coal west of this point. The existence of this vast body of mineral wealth, together with the other natural advantages, and the geographical conditions of its location, make Scranton a city of certain destiny.

This was foreseen by a few minds when I made my first visit to the valley, and was one of the reasons of my location here. That the city's progress will be as great to the end of the century and beyond it as it has been in the past three decades is but a mild prophecy indeed. The impetus it has attained is well nigh irresistible.

Twenty-five years ago there were local Thersites who shook their heads at the constant increase of the mining industry, and the increasing market for anthracite coal; who calculated carefully the visible supply and the date of its exhaustion, and shook their heads dismally over the prospect. At that time many of the culm piles were on fire, and little or no effort was made to extinguish them, except as the heat their smouldering fires produced endangered the breakers. They were regarded as waste only. To-day these same despised culm piles compose part of our most valuable fuel supply, and offer cheaper horsepower to manufacturers than can be obtained anywhere else in the United States. Each year more finely divided fuel is being used, and better methods of more perfect combustion, and higher utilization of every heat unit are being discovered, as well as more economical methods of mining and preparing coal. The rolling bottom of the great trough which divides the Lackawanna basin into a number of sub-basins is still bringing forth surprises, and occasionally a stray vein is discovered where it was least expected one would be found. The prophecies of speedy exhaustion are apparently as far from fulfillment as were they when first they were made, and the ever-increasing out-put finds new sources of supply that pay a tithe of profit to Scranton.

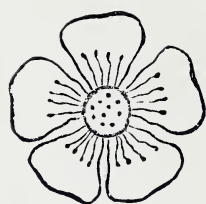
The iron industry, which was the source of ridicule at its inception, has more than surpassed the wildest and most enthusiastic dreams of its indomitable projectors. Its cavilers long since were silenced, and now join with all in honoring the memory of the resolute, energetic and far-seeing men who brooked no obstacle, and knew no word but success. It is a significant fact that, although the ores which they at first hoped to smelt with the abundant coal proved unprofitable, to-day the steel mills of Scranton stand foremost in the United States. During the year 1893, in spite of the depression that extended to every department of business, they were fairly busy, and made more rails than any other concern in America. They kept most of their hands busy at fairly remunerative wages, when other concerns were obliged to close down, and send their men adrift. So, too, with all of the other industries, and the business of the city generally. During the period when other cities had banks and business concerns tumbling with each succeeding week, Scranton recorded no suspensions, no foreclosures in any of her large concerns, and but few minor failures.

Standing as she does, peerless in her progress, and conceded by all the metropolis of Northeastern Pennsylvania, I look back with honest, loving



pride upon her achievements, and the part that I took in her grand development. As the only living physician who was present at what may be called her actual birth, and one who has been with her in all the stages up to a magnificent womanhood, fair among her sister cities, it will be conceded that I have had abundant opportunities to observe some of the idiosyncracies that have attended her development. Many of the details of her history are closely interwoven with my own personal recollections, and for this reason the first person has been adopted for simplicity's sake in these brief notes by the way. I feel they record some data which show the potentialities which have been and are at work; that each one may, as has been recently said, "measure for himself the length of pace, the rapidity of stride and the zeal and confidence with which she marches forward to the most magnificent destiny awaiting any city in this portion of the state."





## CHAPTER SECOND.

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### INDIAN HISTORY.

Obscurity of Data—The First Occupants—The Van of the Colony—Chief Capouse at Tripp's Flats—Vandal Desecration—Count Zinzendorf and the Moravian Encroachments—Massacre at Mill Creek—The Vengeance at Wyoming.

THE early history of the Lackawanna Valley is involved in the obscurity of time, and is hard to exhume from a hundred or more years of oblivious record; yet enough is known to convince us that the Indians held sway long after Penn became the owner of its soil by purchase. There has been much written, by those who had the time and inclination to investigate concerning the exact conditions of the aboriginal title to the lands of this section, and in which tribes it properly vested. As to whether the actual occupants were vassals, or independent; whether they were originally of one stock or another, can never be definitely settled. The intertribal snarls and squabbles of the red man will probably never be untangled, though from the

antagonisms they occasionally generate among the archæologists, they may perpetuate themselves for generations. Several recent writers have advanced statements quite at variance in detail with those of the earlier historians, and cited voluminous copies of old records to prove the correctness of these later views. To avoid all controversy, I use only the main and important facts, which are admitted by both sides.

Nothing beyond remote conjecture reaches back to the first occupants of the country. From the few remains they have left, it would seem that they were of a character entirely different from the Indian tribes with which the first white men came in contact. They were possibly of a race that had either been driven out, or entirely exterminated, years before Columbus was born. The savages who had succeeded them had known nothing of their fate for generations, and had been occupied solely with their own jealous wars. These various tribes, that had once been separate and distinct, gradually yielded to the greater numbers and superior cunning of their most war-like neighbors, and became their vassals and slaves. This gradual conquest and consolidation finally led to a sort of rude confederation, which was at first known as the Five Nations; but later, through the conquest of the Delawares, as the Six Nations,

over which the haughty Iroquois dominated, and were ruling with an iron hand in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys before the first white men visited the region.

The first explorers were from New England, and to Rhode Island we must credit the first enterprise that, after years, became the van of a colony that crossed the valley, seeking the beech and maple lands still further north and west in the towns of Benton, Abington and Factoryville, where their descendants now enjoy the fruits of their enterprise and industry. These lands, or this section of Pennsylvania, was purchased from the representatives of the Six Nations, who continued their domain up the waters of the Susquehanna into New York State, in 1754. As late as 1820, tribes, or large parties from the Oneidas made yearly excursions down the Chenango to its junction with the Susquehanna, and usually spent three or four months with their traps and bows in quest of peltry, returning to their northern homes for the winter.

We have no means of knowing how long the Indians had occupied the Valley of the Lackawanna. It is moderately certain, however, that with the absorption of the Mohegans, or Delawares, into the Six Nations, the supreme authority

of the Iroquois was exercised for the benefit of the Proprietary Government of Pennsylvania whenever it became necessary to invoke it to control the surrounding Algonquin tribes. A large tract of land on the "forks of the Delaware" had been sold to the Proprietary Government as early as 1792; and fifty years later, at a council held in Philadelphia, this was one of the subjects discussed, whereupon, in a most taunting speech, in which he reminded the conquered Lenapes that they had been deprived of their manhood, and subjugated in open battle, Canassatego, the Onondaga chieftain, who represented the supreme council of the Six Nations, commanded them to remove either to "Wouming or Shamokin." This the Minis (corrupted into Monseys) did, and built at the mouth of the Lackawanna the town of Asserughney, which was probably near Campbell's Ledge. It is known that a part of the tribe, under the direct rule of Chief Capouse, inhabited this particular locality and the wide meadows of the Tripp farms, and up and down the stream for miles was the field for their hunting and fishing, and even at this late day there still exist evident marks of their ancient homes. The desecration of their graves for trophies was a favorite pastime of one of our historians, and the fruits of his labors were exhibited as an unique collection on what were once their hunting grounds, while, until within a

short time, the vandal hand of enterprise had not disturbed the still fruitful apple tree, which had been a land mark since the first white settler came into the valley.

Chief Capouse was not a man of war, so far as tradition goes. He defended his own, fought all other tribes of his nation who attempted to trespass on his rights, and successfully resisted all efforts to dispossess him of any of the territory to which he had been assigned by the Six Nations, but never encroached upon others, and lived and died with his tribe, and was buried in a mound near Park Place, where bones, copper kettles, arrowheads and beads were found in 1795. The pacific character of the old Chief Capouse was not transmitted to the younger portion of his tribe. After his death, they were impatient to avenge the wrongs, as they considered them, that he had so patiently endured. Among these were the encroachments of the Moravians, who, under the leadership of Count Zinzendorf, were located at Nazareth, Bethlehem and Easton, and who had permeated the Indian settlements along the Susquehanna above, in the interests of their religious creed, and, perhaps, with a selfish desire to possess the broad fields of Wyoming.

It has been stated that even during Capouse's life time, so restless had the Monseys become at these

encroachments that they were almost ready to take the war path in spite of their chief, and that such a calamity was only averted by the timely visit of Count Zinzendorf to the village, where his kindly manner and dignified bearing, pacified the more discontented element of the tribe. Although this fact has been denied by some of the later historians, it is not by any means improbable. The Count's own diary recounts the fact that in 1742 he went up the Delaware to Stroudsburg and to the settlement "at Wyomick," which probably included the villages of Capouse and Asserughney, since in all the earlier records the term "Wyoming" is used to indicate the Valley of the Lackawanna as well as those settlements on the banks of the Susquehanna. Whether it was the personal visit of the Moravian missionary, or merely the friendly disposition of Chief Capouse, certain it is that during the latter's life no violence was done to the white men, except in a few isolated cases. He died sometime prior to 1755, for it was in that year that the Monseys joined with bands from adjacent territory and were guilty of a murderous breach of faith toward the United Brethren, destroying Gnaddenhutten, some twenty or thirty miles from Bethlehem, and committing the usual bloody atrocities.



Even after the treaty of peace, held in Easton in 1756, between the English and confederated Indian nations, the Monseys on the Lackawanna, under the leadership of their new chief, Backsinosa, were troublesome and hostile to the English. In the first Indian massacre of the settlers at Mill Creek, in the summer of 1763, the warriors of this tribe were charged with participating in the bloody and cruel fight.

The last wigwams of this tribe disappeared from the region known as Capouse in 1771, the Indians returning to their northern haunts with the Oneidas, along the Chenango, and the Ocquaguas, who resided along the Susquehanna, where the flourishing village of Winsor now stands. Afterward, with the pale-faced allies enlisted in their cause, they came down and visited their wrath upon the inhabitants of Wyoming, in 1778, in a war that caused the world to shudder at their atrocities; and, in their retreat, swarmed up the Lackawanna for the last time, brandishing their blood-stained weapons of cruelty, leaving their victims dead and dying, homes desolated by flame and faggot, and coveted lands reduced to a barren and desolate waste.



## CHAPTER THIRD.

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### THE TOWNSHIP OF PROVIDENCE.

Original Survey of Record—The First Clearing—Matters at Capouse—Pioneer Life—Nineteenth Century Progress—Religion and Temperance—First Store and Tavern—Post Office and Civil History.

THE Township of Providence included all of the early settlements in the Lackawanna Valley, and was originally laid out by the Connecticut company, and appears in the Westmoreland records as included in part of the original survey, which embraced an area of six thousand acres, divided between it and the Township of Pittston. This was in 1770. Providence, as afterwards surveyed, was five miles square; and is often specified in the transaction of the company as "Ye 6th Town of Capouse." Timothy Keys and Solomon Locksley, two young men from Connecticut, made the first clearing, and located near the present site of Taylorville, on the mouth of the creek which bears the former's name, in 1771. The bitterness of the Pennamite war, and all the animosities it engendered, soon drove them

off, together with several others who joined them in a few months. Of this controversey, I have nothing to say. Its issues, which grew out of conflicting English grants, were, perhaps, sufficiently vital at the time to have warranted some of the vindictiveness shown; but they have been settled over a century, and are interesting only as a part of political history, and those who wish to weigh for themselves the merits of the dispute can find half a dozen volumes which recite the details *in extenso*.

When the notes of early Scranton and Providence that form the basis of these memoirs were originally prepared at the request of the Historical Society, the honor of a historian had never been thrust upon me; and a reluctance to disappoint those who gave me the distinguished position, induced me to assume the new role. So far as I can interest the reader in giving its history (and my acquaintance extends back some fifty years), I will endeavor to recall the salient points. The history of Wyoming, also, with which it is closely interwoven, and all of the tragic scenes there enacted, are so elegantly depicted by Miner and more recently by Pierce, in his "Annals of Luzerne County," Rev. Dr. Peck and Dr. Hollister, that it would be superfluous to repeat. Each of them had means of accumulating history, by interviews with old set-

tlers, long gone to their rest, which do not now exist. and through documents which I have neither time nor inclination to seek. Should anyone desire more details of the previous history than I am able here to give, I refer him to each of them for minute particulars.

The Indians having wreaked their vengeance on the successful inhabitants of Wyoming and Lackawanna, and retired to their allies of the north, the union of the six powerful tribes known as the Six Nations, who then mostly inhabited the northwest and central portions of New York State, we find the first settlers of Capouse, or what is now Providence, to be Isaac Tripp, Andrew Hickman, John DeWitt, Gideon Baldwin and Christopher Avery. Others may have been with them at the time they came, but no one has ever been able to find any positive evidence of them, as neither the ashes of their homes, nor any marks of civilization existed prior to the date given, when they risked their lives in this howling wilderness. The unkind treatment the New England settlers at Capouse had received from the Pennamites at Wyoming, from the date of their arrival in 1771 to 1782, furnished cogent arguments against the colonization of what is now Providence. Other causes might have checked immigration. Like all new countries, it was not perfect.

The settlers above named returned to their homes for a season. Fever had stricken them, and not until the Trenton Decree had extinguished the title of the Connecticut settlers, and peace began to reign, did they dare return to their lodges in the wilderness. Even when the County of Luzerne was erected, in 1786, and the laws of Pennsylvania promised protection to the settlers, they scarce dared begin a home in the woods. As things became more tranquil, the Tripps returned, and with them came the Abbotts, Athertons, Bagleys, Dolphs, Lutzs, Fullers and many other old families that have left posterity to inherit their farms. The march of improvement and the spirit of speculation induced many to leave, and but comparatively few remained to profit from the vast fields of black rock which they then owned without knowledge, and which have since made hundreds rich, and have built a busy, populous, industrial community from a country of prayerful, quiet, secluded homes.

In the laborious life of these hardy pioneers there was little room for material advancement during the remaining part of the century. Isolated by the absence of roads, dependent solely upon the returns of their small clearings and the product of rod and gun they sturdily wielded the axe, set the brand and sought to wrest their farms

from the grasp of the forest. The first house in the Borough of Providence, of which this chapter treats, was that erected at the junction of Leggett's Creek with the Lackawanna, where James Leggett built a rude hut in 1775. Enoch Holmes erected a cabin at the northwest corner of what is now Main and Oak street, a year or two later. Pounded maize, venison and bear meat, and the few vegetables that could be easily raised on the clearing, were depended upon for food. The summer was one of unremitting toil on the plantation; the winter devoted to the manufacture of such articles of rude handicraft as could be exchanged for a supply of powder and lead. In 1790 the courts of Luzerne obliterated the old township lines, and it became necessary to transact all business at Pittston. This hardship led to a petition, and two years later it was granted by the authorities, and thereafter the town business was transacted at Providence, and the Indian Apple Tree once more became the legal warning place.

The beginning of the Nineteenth Century marked an era of some improvement. Roads were built, the Duwains had sold out to the Slocums, and there were better facilities at "the Hollow," and the hamlets began to thrive. The pioneers had to depend entirely upon wool for their raiment, and for this reason large numbers of sheep



were early products of the township. Every housewife had to card, spin and weave. One of the first industries in this line was located just a little above Providence, in 1808, by John Watres, who erected a carding and fulling mill. The other products of the village were grain, lumber and whiskey, the latter being made at Tripp's still. The majority of the land owners were men of generous impulses, liberal and hospitable; and many of the characteristics which have since marked the city were manifest. The inhabitants generally respected the Sabbath day, except in haying and harvesting times, when I think they did the most work—or, rather, the best farming in the town. They disturbed no worshipping congregation, for there was none to worship. At intervals of a month or more, some devoted Methodist would venture a sermon in some old school house in the neighborhood; but seldom would attempt to disturb the monotony of the country by advancing the idea that God ruled over all, for it was looked upon as an innovation of vested rights. However, a few were devoted Christians, and did what they could to inculcate a spirit of benevolence and charity in all; and such were looked upon as suspicious persons. Father Hunt, I recollect, in the winter of 1840, gave notice that he would deliver a lecture on "Temperance" at the school house opposite Providence, then better

known as "Razorville." The night came, and the old gentleman was on the ground, and had an audience of about twenty, each of whom had fortified himself with a bottle of "Old Hang's Whiskey," and whenever, in the lecture, a good point was made—and there were many such—each took his bottle out and drank, and when the lecture closed they were all lecturing on the same subject.

While the town laid no particular claim to piety, it began the erection of one of the first churches in the valley, when a tremendous hurricane, that devastated the country all about, demolished it entirely and carried the rafters half way to Slocum's Hollow. The good were dismayed; the wicked said it was a Divine Providence. This may have been one of the reasons that the Sabbatarian observance was somewhat lax in harvest time.

The construction of the Drinker Turnpike, and the erection of a bridge over the Lackawanna at Providence, had a very beneficial effect upon the trade of the place, and it soon built up quite a considerable country traffic. The first store was opened in 1828, by Elisha Potter and Michael McKeal, on what has since become the southwest corner of Main and Market Streets. This soon passed into the hands of Nathaniel Cottrill, who afterwards erected his tavern, where the Bristol House now stands. The post office was removed

to Providence from Slocum's Hollow, in 1829, with John Vaughn, Jr., as postmaster. Since his term there have served the following gentlemen, up to the time when the office was abolished by the establishment of the carrier service in the City of Scranton: Voltaire Searls, J. R. Bloom, H. Richardt, D. S. Koon, S. Esterbrook, H. Hollister, B. P. Couch, J. R. Bloom, H. Roberts.

The Borough of Providence was incorporated by an Act of Assembly, March 14th, 1849. The first officers were as follows: J. R. Wint, Burgess; W. W. Winton, S. Gardner, Asa Corson and Ira Tripp, Councilmen; Francis Fuller, Constable; David S. Koons, Justice of the Peace; Theodore Von Storch, Assessor; Jacob R. Bloom and William H. Crandall, Inspectors of Election; Nathaniel Cottrill, Judge of Election; C. T. Atwater, S. Esterbrooks and D. R. Randall, School Directors. The succeeding Burgesses were; N. D. Greene, 1850; A. B. Dunning, 1851-52; Sandford Grant, 1853; E. Leach, 1854; Theodore Von Storch, 1855-57; E. S. M. Hill, 1858; E. Leach, 1859; Daniel Silkman, 1860; Theodore Von Storch, 1861, until the borough was absorbed into the City of Scranton. The Justices of the Peace commissioned in Providence Borough were: D. S. Koons, 1850; E. Leach, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1865; Theodore Von Storch, 1854, 1859; G. W. Miller, 1865.

## CHAPTER FOURTH.

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### SOME FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

Razorville, Hyde Park and Bucktown in 1840—Habits of the Settlers  
—Location of the Old Roads—A Hard-Worked Physician—Stores,  
Hotels and Industries—The Mail and the Legal Profession.

AS is elsewhere narrated in these reminiscences, my first visit to what is now Scranton was in September, 1840, when I had first heard of Mr. Henry's purchase and an opportunity to make a day's examination of the locality was afforded by a purely fortuitous circumstance connected with my profession. The impressions that I then gained were, as results show, most favorable; and after carefully thinking over the question of a change of location, which was the last thing that I had in my mind that day that I called on my friend Silkman, I made a decision that I have at no time since regretted. The incidents and discoveries made on my first trip of exploration, though now over fifty years ago, were so indelibly photographed on my memory that all the changes I

have witnessed have not served to dim them in any material particular, and it is interesting in connection with these notes to recall, as far as practicable, the local conditions I found on that bright autumnal morning that I drove my gig through almost primitive wilderness in the heart of what is now the metropolis of the anthracite region.

There were at this time four centers of settlement that coincided fairly well with the intersections of the principal roads, and much of the clearing that had been done was along the lines of greatest travel, though there were noted exceptions to this rule. These points of settlement were Razorville, now Providence; Hyde Park, Slocum's Hollow and Bucktown, now Dunmore. The three former, together with settlements subsequently made, constitute most of what is now within the territorial limits of the City of Scranton, and contained the major part of my first day's explorations. The territory of which I am writing is located on a small share only of what is now a great county, and originally contained only six square miles, and even in writing of that I must encroach on the domain of other local historians, who, perhaps, may make the same complaint of me; yet in order to give a comprehensive view of any locality that has been subjected to as many

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changes and so great development in so comparatively short a time, such overlapping of individual accounts and recollections is well nigh unavoidable, since each picture of the past reveals a gradual unfolding from a different point of view.

The land along the creek was originally loose, and as the latter receded, became rolling, and presented a variety of sub-lands and meadows desirable for agricultural purposes, until it approached the mountains that skirt it on the east and west. The Moosic Range is on the east, while that on the west is the Lackawanna, which has never been inviting for tillage, and which comprises at least one-third of the territory of which I am writing. There is little specific history of the township until after the settlement of the Pennamite troubles, and such as there is has been touched on in the general notes of the region. From 1772-73 there had been a very slow growth of pioneers who lived in most primitive fashion. The majority of the land owners were men of generous impulses, liberal and hospitable, and each owned his own farm, and by the sweat of his brow maintained himself and his family by agriculture. A few varied their pursuits in winter by devotion to the charms of lumbering, and some, more romantic, in hunting, for deer were plenty on both the mountain sides. Still others of a more practical turn



used up their time in "shingle weaving," as they called their work, or enjoyed the congregation that could always be found at the hotels, and sought the solace of old age by dealing with the politics of the country, in which they thought at least they had great influence. Such had been the tranquil and monotonous life, varied only once or twice with any marked venture at conspicuous enterprise, up to the time that the attempt to make iron was first undertaken, and the sort of community that would naturally be developed by such slow growth was that in which I found myself ushered the day I erected my household gods in Razorville.

There were four roads running up and down the valley, all interlacing at the points of settlement noted. From the northwest, the old Drinker Turnpike came in from Abington and Montrose, following much the same route as now, save that, through Leggett's Gap, or the Notch, as it is now better known, it occupied the other side of the creek, and went over the hill, instead of following the stream bed. It was changed to its present course when the Leggett's Gap Railroad was built, the engineers finding that in order to get a suitable grade out of the valley, it was necessary to occupy nearly the line of the pike. Under an order of court, the old route was then vacated, and a new road was cut out on the opposite side of the creek,



making a much less hilly means of egress and ingress. It intersected, at the corners, a north and south road running up and down the valley, from Carbondale to Pittston, a part of which still remains intact, and is known as "The Back Road," between Hyde Park and Providence. Above the latter place it did not follow exactly the same course that it now pursues. In 1846 or 1847, it was decided to construct a colliery where it crosses the hill, where Archbald now is, and permission was obtained to vacate the old road and construct one about the base of the hill, which was about the same distance, and a much better grade. This is the only material change that there has been since on that line of travel. Another road which led out from it, about the present location of Throop, came down the valley on the easterly side, intersected the Drinker Turnpike, passed down what is now Sanderson Avenue, thence into Penn, and pursued the same general course now held until it reached the Dickson Works. From there it went diagonally across toward the Slocum grist mill, crossing Wyoming Avenue obliquely about where my present office building now stands, and, intersecting a pass road through the woods from Hyde Park, which followed approximately the line of Lackawanna Avenue, near the present corner of that and Washington Avenues, led down to the bridge over Roaring Brook. It was nearly in

the intersection of these two roads that I subsequently erected my residence, which was the first on this side of the creek, save one or two that had been erected by the company for occupancy by the families of its various members. The old Dunmore road ran from the corners, and on the upper portion follows much the same direction now as then, until one reaches the neighborhood of the Moses Taylor Hospital, from which point it came diagonally down past the blast furnaces to the Slocum tavern, united with the other converging roads, and with them crossed the creek about where the Cedar Avenue bridge now is, and followed substantially the line of that street outside the present city limits.

Of the streets which ran easternly and westernly, the first was Luzerne, which ran much as it does now, from the Back road to the point at which it crosses the Lackawanna; from thence it ran across the flats, wound under the hill, until it intersected the north and south road near the Slocums. The next was Jackson Street, much as it is now, on the west side of the river, and winding up under the hill towards Lackawanna Avenue on the east side. There was also a road across to the Dunmore road, traversing a portion of what is now Green Ridge, much the same as now.

These constituted the most traversed thoroughfares, and there were no additions to them of any consequence until the construction of the old Plank Road, which came in from the old Bull's Head about 1852 or 1853, and made nearly its present intersection near the Dickson Works.

The community, markedly an agricultural one, consisted of about one hundred and twenty-five families, or a population of under one thousand people, as similar communities are reckoned. There were the usual number of industries, all fairly patronized, and making a good living for their owners. The idea of a trade to extend outside the valley had not yet occurred to any of them, and they were content with such local patronage as each day brought.

There was but one physician in the town of Providence in 1840. He was a clever, kind-hearted old gentleman of about sixty, who had the free run of the township, and was looked upon as a member of every family, although he had one of his own. He rarely gave any medicine except rhubarb and soda; and when called in haste, his patrons made the request that he would go on foot. He rarely rode a horse, and never drove, and seldom went faster than a slow walk, yet he performed all the duties of doctor and nurse for the whole country around.

Hotels did better. There were four—two at Hyde Park and two at Razorville. The proprietors had good business, lived well and charged sixpence a drink, six for lodging, twelve and one-half for a dinner, and everything else in proportion. The Cottrell stand, occupying, as it did, a most convenient location on the line of the old Drinker Pike, at its intersection with the Wilkes-Barre and Carbondale road, about where the Bristol House now stands, was a favorite resort, and somewhat of a political headquarters, where often gathered leaders who stood high in the esteem of the community. It was here that some of the first industrial projects of the region, outside those undertaken by the company, were discussed; and the proprietor was one of the active men of the community, who took part in every public movement, and who was one of the representatives of this valley at the Tunkhannock meeting, where the plan of the feeder dam and slack water navigation on the Lackawanna was first practically acted upon.

The manufacturing interests were represented by those referred to in my report, as well as the usual number of small repair shops generally found in similar communities, elsewhere, in olden time; and several small stores supplied the needs of the people in such articles as were not

locally produced. There was one store in Providence kept by an old Scotchman, who had it open during the winter; but in the spring he packed his whole stock, strapped it on his back, and peddled until winter came again. There were other stores in Hyde Park of more complete assortment; and in one, in connection with the post office, one could find a general assortment of dry goods, crockery, hardware, drugs, medicines and liquors. In the evening this, too, was a hailing place for the neighborhood, and the habitues were often delighted with the music of the sweet violin to a late season.

The mail facilities at this time consisted of a line of two-horse stages that ran from Honesdale to Wilkes-Barre, via Carbondale, going up one day and down the next, thus giving the inhabitants a tri-weekly mail from each direction, though it took about three days to get a letter either to or from New York or Philadelphia. The Honesdale and Wilkes-Barre stage, was a two-horse, three-seated vehicle, and carried five passengers and the driver, who was for many years, John Kennedy, who lived on the farm subsequently purchased by the late Moses Taylor, in the place where Taylorville now stands. Later on, this line was succeeded by one made up of covered four-horse

coaches, which about 1844 began to run daily, and was well patronized.

It was seldom that a New York paper was met with, and the papers at Wilkes-Barre gave the news to the world once a week. There were but few men of liberal education in the country, and those were emigrants from the east; and, as a general thing, were estray schoolmasters seeking a market for knowledge that was not merchantable from whence they came; but they were well received, and, captivated by the wiles of Venus, became fixtures, and gave tone to the intelligence of the valley.

The legal profession did not suffer, for there was one attorney upon whom all relied. In modern parlance, he was a "carpet bagger" from New York state, who early captured one of the fair daughters who had inherited what would now be called a large possession. He was a man of much brilliancy of talent, tolerably well read, full of wit, sarcastic when excited, a great mimic, and always on the lucky sides of his cases. His opponents were from Carbondale and Wilkes-Barre. The rough and tumble of the Justices' courts in this region was his delight, and on such occasions the entire neighborhood was generally present. In those days, when there was seldom any exciting



theme, a law suit relieved the monotony of dull routine, and was enjoyed hugely. By a kind of tradition, they usually came on Saturday, and often lasted until next morning, and nothing was considered wrong about a little lapping over, so that the case closed before daylight. Of this brilliant man and his history much might be said. After many years' absence, he returned to this city and died in poverty. "*Sic transit gloria mundi.*" "*Requiem in mortis.*"

Such were the surroundings amid which I had come; such were the facilities, the limitations and the simplicities of the happy, quiet, contented people of the tranquil valley as I found them that day over half a century ago. The wonderful dynamic forces, the Titanic potentialities, hidden beneath the verdure-clad hills ages before, were but hinted at by few, and far beyond the comprehension of all, as subsequent development has shown; but there was plenty to represent the luxury of to-day; there was simplicity and mutual confidence, where now we have the complexity and questioning which the problem of modern social and commercial life, with all of its ceaseless activities, brings. Who can say that enjoyment of life did not reach the full measure of capacity as well then as now?





## CHAPTER FIFTH.

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### CULTURE AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.

Limited Educational Facilities of the Early Days—The New England Spirit—Formation of the Blakely Literary Society—The First Lecture Delivered.

IN the early days of Scranton, while the number of men of liberal education in the valley was very limited, and was confined almost entirely to the professions; and, while such schools as there were, affording through the irregularities of their sessions, an opportunity of desultory attendance only to those of the younger generation, it must not be supposed that there were not much the same strivings after intellectual culture as were there after substantial commercial development and industrial prosperity. The same men who were most active in one were as zealous in the other; for the leaders in all the public enterprises had come from communities more fully provided with those most important things that tend to modern progress, and fully realized that one of the

most potent adjuncts to the success of their endeavors was intelligent comprehension and co-operation on the part of all members of the growing community. The first pioneers of the valley had brought with them the educational spirit of New England,\* and among the earliest records is to be found ample provisions for the schools. Without stopping to discuss the circumstances which had, in a measure, thwarted these original intentions, and left the settlers dependent upon their own resources for such schooling as was afforded, it is interesting to note that, at this time, the spirit of a generous recognition of the right of every citizen to secure for his children such intellectual training as should enable them to adequately comprehend the glorious institutions of a free country, and their relations and duties thereto, was just as strong in their descendants as had it been in the projectors of the township, two generations before.†

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\* "The land originally reserved in Providence exclusively for school purposes, owing to the prolonged Wyoming dispute, and change of jurisdiction, lay idle. . . . The first school house, diminutive in proportion, yet sufficient for the demand made upon it, was built a few rods below the Holmes house, in 1818."—*Hollister*.

† " . . . The thrift and sprightliness of the New England character can be traced in the elementary education imparted to them in the cabin school house . . . after their families had been sheltered . . . they made provisions for the school house . . . As far as any judgment can be formed, . . . it leads to the conclusion that there has been no relaxation of effort in the cause of education, since the earlier settlers passed away."—*Hollister*.

It was to this that the new blood which came into the valley appealed with quick response on all propositions looking to the moral and intellectual welfare of the place. Looking, to-day, over this queenly city, with her happy children nestled about her, it is with pardonable pride that those of us who came to her whilst still in travail amid the primeval forest, can point to her churches and schools as evidence that, in her childhood, was impressed upon her the necessity of moral and intellectual culture as the only lasting foundation for the grand superstructure of civil, commercial, industrial and political supremacy then conceiving. Beside her breakers, among her manufactories, along every stream and rivulet which leads tributary from the mainspring of her wealth, there is to be found the sky-reaching spire, pointing upward and onward to higher things in every department of life, the pupils of the well-equipped schools close at hand.

Those who had leisure in 1840 were few, indeed, and there was little time which adults could spare from daily callings to participate in intellectual culture; but when the sun was set, the necessity for mental relaxation was felt all the more because of the exertions of the day, and lyceums and debating societies were popular, well attended and were forums of a democratic character where all

met and enjoyed the discussion of the topics of the day; and such contributions as came from those of larger opportunities, without any of the social distinctions and clique proscriptions that have since grown up. In proportion to the population, the attendance was much larger than at similar gatherings to-day. One of the earliest of these was the Blakely Literary Society, which embraced in its list of members some of the most prominent people of the vicinity, and in the precincts of whose lyceum some lively debates were heard on all of the important topics of the day.

Its extraordinary sessions were held in the old Blakely Church, which was one of the first built in the valley, having been raised and enclosed in 1832, and remaining unfinished, until, to quote Dr. Hollister, "its completion was hastened by the ironical criticism of a stranger, who, upon passing it, remarked that he 'had heard of the *house* of the Lord before, but had never seen his *barn*.'" The late Lewis Watres was employed to put it in order, and it was one of the best appointed auditoriums in the valley at the time. During the year '41, when the weekly papers brought the intelligence that public lectures were being delivered in some of the large cities, the members of this association were inspired to achieve something metropolitan

from a literary standpoint in the Lackawanna Valley.

Shortly before this, a young doctor had made his appearance in Razorville. His modesty commended him to the pity of a few, as it now admonishes him to retreat to the third person; and, being rather an obstinate kind of a genius, he had decided to tarry a while. He was well prepared to do business, for he brought two old horses with him, which proved to be decided adjuncts to his subsequent career in more senses than one; but the strenuous opposition of the established practitioner and his friends almost discouraged the young chap, though through some accident he had a call; pity and sympathy came to his aid, and he had others, until, after a long time, he made a living, and has hung around ever since. Whether he has achieved any reputation as a physician, or whether he has cured more than he has killed, is a problem never to be answered—dead men tell no tales. A live doctor was considerable of a fellow in those days, and he was importuned by the society to deliver a lecture in the old church some time during the winter. He consented, prepared his theme, delivered it with great *eclat*; and it was pronounced so brilliant an effort, and was received with so great satisfaction, that it had subsequently to be repeated in Hyde Park and

in Slocum's Hollow. It increased his practice, and no doubt immortalized his name; but its chief interest lies in the fact that it was the *first* lecture delivered in the valley, and a secondary one in that, much that was postulated then, as abstract truth he has lived to see in the concrete, during the past fifty years; and he still likes to believe that it had its effect in moulding, to some extent, the current opinion of the times on the matters of which it treated, which is the justification of its introduction in these personal reminiscences. The lecture was as follows:

#### EDUCATION.

As with nations, so it is with individuals; their relative local situations varigate and determine their characters—physical, political and moral. Peculiarity of thought, diversity of action, difference of inclination and, in a word, the components of our very nature, are oft times created and arranged by adventitious causes operating upon the mind with an effect varying with the innate disposition of the individual. In the direction and application of intellect, a continual reaction obtains from inanimate to animate, from the matter moulded to the power moulding, confirming and fixing the mind in its impressions by a process the frequent or rare repetition of which determines the degree of practical attainment. Hence, in a measure, the secret of that dissimilarity in the pursuits and occupations of men, at various periods of time, the differing policy of states at different ages of their existence, and the reason of the accepted doctrine that society and mind bear a mut-



ual and sympathetic relation. As the standard of improvement advances, the effort of the mind will be proportionally raised, thus measuring the character and force of the projected innovation by the thermometer of public opinion or sentiment.

The gloomy reign of that false philosophy which so long held the world in pupillage is destroyed, and an age of mental imbecility is succeeded by one of intellectual strength. The generous efforts of those who immolate themselves on the altar of scientific research have received their proud recompense. We live in an age of improvement. The results of many plans for ameliorating the condition of mankind are such as cheer those who have embarked in similar projects, and will produce other aspirants for future usefulness.

The keystone of our argument, then, is fixed. The complexion of society warrants, nay, demands, the present effort for its eventual improvement. In the selection of means for the accomplishment of our purpose the necessary caution should not be neglected. If it be vain to render men favorable to improvements which they are prepared to appreciate, then it must be equally so, if not dangerous, even after the conviction of their benefit, to attempt their introduction through unpopular channels. Fortunately for those engaged in this enterprise, public opinion also speaks on this point in a tone too direct to be mistaken. If the spirit of the present age tends to the improvement of mankind, *its inspirations are explicit*, that the means of its accomplishment are to be found in the diffusion of useful knowledge.

Our object thus definitely expressed, our instrument of operation thus directly presented, inclination points the

path of duty, and the labor of reform assumes the pleasing aspect of benevolence.

Only one doubt remains to obstruct the vision and mar the beauty of the prospect. We are directed to the remains of ancient science, the monuments of ancient learning; and, in their wreck, are taught to view the fatality of all human institutions, general obscurity, and eventual oblivion. We are asked to discard the principles of our nature and live the ephemerical of to-day; to compress within a few fleeting hours the elasticity of an incompressible mind, and, as insulated beings, are bade to consider the history of the past equally obscure and useless with the knowledge of the future. Without pausing at this point of our discourse to distinguish the palpable distinctions of an ancient and modern society, to confine our attention to one or the other will amply prove the falsity of the comparison.

In the usual estimate of Grecian or Roman grandeur, there is an obvious but ceaseless illusion, which, ever playing with a dazzling lustre upon their remains, attaches to itself the fancy of the scholar and the reason of the sage. The wisdom, the science, the attainments of the few, are but too commonly estimated to all, and the blaze of glory in which we have enveloped the supremacy of their genius, is too intense to reveal the deficiency which lurks beneath. Our minds, captivated with the wisdom of their sages, can hardly suspect the ignorance of the people; and, impressed with the justice of their theories, to confound them with their government is nothing strange or unusual. But time, if magnifying in its passage, also affords the only test of virtue and strength. Thus, while we look to Greece and Rome for models in the elegant arts, and to their sons for instructions in the pursuit of learning, the policy of

their governments is recalled only as the secret of their dissolution; or, as mentioned in comparison, to amend the evils of our own.

The diffusion of knowledge was narrow and contracted. Its announcement was to be applauded rather than partaken of, and in all their public monuments the modesty of utility never presumed to reveal the pretensions to glory. States thus organized cannot otherwise than fall, involving in their ruin every superstructure, however magnificent. "The seminaries of premature decay—they foster the principles of their own destruction!"

Nor is the idea less delusive or false that supposed the revolution of years only can ameliorate the social and political condition of man. Borne forward by the progress of Europe, and daily witnessing the rapid march of intellectual improvement, we are apt to transfer the same advance to mankind in general, and imagine that time alone can accomplish the perfection of human affairs. But withdrawing our attention from the present scene, let us extend our view to the seats of the ancient empires, or the records of ancient learning, and the monuments of greatness, perishing as they stand, with the mementos of genius that no longer walk the earth, would lead us to suspect that the objects of our admiration are but the relics of what once existed, that the dominion of science has disappeared in the gloom of approaching night; and, that with the decay of the ancient splendor, the glories of the earth disappear in the chaos of oblivion. In this overestimate of foregone time, the illusion, though perfect, is obvious.

The brief present is compared with the long past, and the advantages and acquisitions of ages that have gone are

weighed against the circumstances and survivals of the times in which we live. Thus meeting the doctrines of those holding to the perishing nature of society and its institutions, we are led to revert to its true organization and to the agency associations for the diffusion of knowledge possess, in promoting its progress.

The investigation daily evidenced in the pursuits of science and the arts is founded in reason and nature. Its researches embrace every department of social life, and its results testify to the simplicity of the means employed.

The philosopher of the Baconian school is to sit down with the humility of a child till time and the continuous movement of nature shall dictate to him a law of the universe. To discoveries thus made, there can be no limit but the limit of creation and of the human faculties. The efforts of former philosophers were both feeble and inadequate, involving inextricable truth with error; but the method of Bacon, leading to conclusions, the fruit of patient induction, has thrown society continually forward with accelerated impetus, has removed every obstacle to its progress and, more than anything else, has advanced the human race in the dignity of thinking, social, and moral beings.

The only adequate power thus to elevate, enlighten and advance the world, is that of moral education. It will be readily perceived that such being the vivifying principle of social intercourse, the spread of information, while expanding the mind, must necessarily arouse its faculties to a true estimation of the instrument to be employed in combating error and prejudice. Their extension of knowledge being the grand desideratum to us, its attainment is both easy and obvious. Adversed to a participation in the biased

opinions and exploded tenants of European policy, the waters that separate us are not more wide nor profound than is the division that marks our moral, social and political relations. Excessive caution can but afford a feeble protection to antiquated social distinctions, and the jealousy of absolute power is seldom enabled to preserve entire the mantle of ignorance ; but their united energies have rarely failed to present a barrier to the improvement of mankind, which, though temporary, has nevertheless retarded the progress of human learning.

Accordingly, the texture of Trans-Atlantic economy is easily distinguished by the convenient politics of parasitical statesmen and the mutilated abortions of a muzzled press, while the edict of crowned heads is, by divine right, announced to the advancing current of modern improvement: "Thus far shalt thou go and no further." If American institutions be based on principles essentially different, the means of their support can be no less so. Taught to believe that the happiness of our existence, as well political as moral, depends upon the information of the people, our anxiety is not so much to limit its extent, as to select those agents most capable of enlarging its dominion. Nor is it any part of our discipline to invoke the end of compulsory influence. Justly deeming it the remnant of an obsolete school, it is relinquished to those governments of whose nature it partakes, while the rule that the promulgation of knowledge will create its own disposition is adopted in its stead as the more republican and useful.

Implanting by our common schools the rudiments of education, modern institutions are but their successive steps. The desire of improvement thus early instilled, the

means of its gratification are made ample and convenient. It is more easy to excite a thirst for knowledge than to quench its appetite or satiate its cravings.

Either an obscure conviction, or an insufficient regard for this simple truth, has engrafted a delusive error on the superstructure of more than our system of education. The early efforts of the mind, if ever encouraged, have hitherto been as often injuriously suppressed as forcibly destroyed by the operation of a false intellectual culture which it is the object of modern literary associations to remedy and correct. Formerly the student who confined in his researches to but a small portion of the extensive empire of knowledge, was doomed to fix his gaze upon an inheritance as captivating, as alluring, and as rich as that which was spread before the enraptured view of the Roman conqueror; but the Rubicon to his progress was more forbidding and impassible. Poor in the acquirement of worldly goods, but abounding in the richness of an exuberant genius, the poverty of one was too apt to canker the prosperity of the other, while the provisions of an erroneous policy equally suffered the shameful sacrifice.

But the recent institutions, if detecting the lurking evil, have also effected its cure. The walls of the lecture-room are no longer the prisons of literature, nor their purlieu the exclusive retreats of science. Their ethereal essence has long since passed the artificial barrier interposed by the learned prejudices of dogmatic schoolmen, and all, from the peasant in his cot to the more favored in fortune, are indiscriminately invited to revel in their luxuries and banquet on their treasures. The abodes of knowledge have been extended to the immediate vicinity of every individual. Her stately trappings and rigidity of aspect are discarded, and she is clothed in the garb of familiar com-



panionship. Her theatre is the world, and mankind are her associates.

An important, if not the greatest, agency in producing this change on the face of society, must be attributed to the lyceums or young men's literary associations of the day. They are peculiarly the offspring of the Nineteenth Century. Other generations, it is true, have projected the improvement, and canvassed its advantages; but the task of moulding its theory, and conforming its outlines to the utility of practice has been reserved exclusively for this. Their history is the best exposition of their principles, and their influence the only memento of their usefulness. Commencing with the elementary truths of literature, it has been their care to lead the instructor, with his pupil, to strip science of its jargon, and to convey its teachings through the language of nature. The consequences are visible. The laborious and, in a measure, mysterious doctrines of a less modern school have been simplified, and their useful features applied to the ordinary occurrences of life. Philosophy, instead of residing among the clouds, is familiar at all our firesides; and its precepts, no longer viewed as the splendid theories of sublimated human nature, are now deemed pleasant and profitable guides as well of our recreations as of our duties. Does the alchemist display his mystical sights to our gaze? The genius of modern institutions, Œdipus-like, furnishes the solution, and the retort and crucible become the amusement of our leisure, while the laboratory contributes its treasures to our use. Does the apparent presence of the astrologer surprise or intimidate us? The public lecturer dispels the errors of prejudice, and harmonizes the conflicts of the mind, while the orrery revolves its mimic world in explanation of that mysterious arrangement that points to a superior and



Omnipotent Being. Observations are multiplied in every portion of our land, and the heavens that roll over us at present are as pure and unclouded a horizon as that which instructed the children on the plains of Sinaar. All the hoarded learning of ages passed, every branch of every science, art and nature themselves, become the willing contributors to this common repository of mankind. With its coffers thus replenished and its treasures thus pure and unadulterated, its issues are of no stinted nature. A general good can be secured only by a general participation.

Among the first objects, therefore, of these popular institutions is the common diffusion of useful information. While the benefits are presented to all, none can pretend to a preference in their enjoyment, and the artificial distinctions of general society are forgotten, or merged into a community of interesting pursuits.

A republic of letters must be productive of as interesting and important results as that of legislative government, and if the one languish and decay in the absence of the other, their contemporary existence no less exposes the fact of their mutual support. In the extension and acknowledgment of this general principle are we to look for the safety of our institutions, to the progress of learning and the consequent duration and stability of our political fabric.

It has been wisely remarked that in all the pursuits of active or speculative life, the emulation of states and individuals has been the most powerful spring of the efforts and improvements of mankind. If the presence of this spirit be adopted as the test of innovation, we occupy a more favorable ground; that far from a bare compliance with the requirements of the rule, the event of our opera-

tions has imparted additional strength to its application, and places its propriety beyond the possibility of dispute.

Nothing can be more manifest than the difference in our moral and mental conditions before and after the introduction of literary societies. The one, composed of prejudice, error, and unenlightened stupidity, was the incubus of ignorance; but active speculation, correct thought and general literature illustrate the other. If intellectual gloom prevailed during one period, the other has beamed on mankind the dawn of an age of practical wisdom and scientific utility.

Formerly external and numeral force constituted the Procrustean guage of titles, honors, and distinctions; but the disorders of physical life are often corrected by the changes of the moral world, and the explosion of the ancient regime, and the acknowledgement of an aristocracy of learning, having equally testified that "Knowledge is Power." A moral lever thus placed within their grasp, a wonderful reformation has been commenced by lyceums throughout our country, operating indiscriminately, and extending promiscuously to all classes of individuals. The seat of their exertion is the mind, and the general diffusion of knowledge their instrument of action.

But exclusive of the paramount advantages resulting to the great body of mankind, their efforts are attended with others useful and interesting to its particular class. The pursuits of knowledge do not, in this particular instance, justify the erroneous impression of the absence of instruction and amusement to those engaged in its communication. On the contrary, its employments present a pleasing occupation equally to the scholar and the philanthropist—as well to those of the professions as to the man

of business. Each is empowered to contribute to the fund of common information, and his assistance frequently consumes a vacant hour with pleasure to himself and advantage to others. Should the fluctuations, the business, or the bustling activity of a commercial mart demand his daily attention, the meeting of a literary club affords the necessary relaxation. The cares of the counting room are agreeably exchanged for the refreshing duties of the portico, and its classic retreat with its simple pursuits offer him more of real luxury than did the gorgeous embellishments of a Roman villa to the pampered appetites of a Roman epicure. Nor is the contrast faint which renders its charms acceptable to the professional man. He has mixed with the gay and giddy throng, and has endured the rude buffeting of the world. He, perhaps, has trod

“ \* \* \* \* \* mountains,  
And the craggy ridge that tempts ambition,”

and has experienced its insecurity and danger. His companions have been the great and the learned, and, though it may have been his to hear

“ \* \* \* \* \* the grand debate,  
The popular harangue, the tart reply,  
The logic, and the wisdom, and the wit,”

of assembled talent, he must feel, with the poet, that

“ It is pleasant through the loop-holes of retreat  
To peep at such a world—to see the stir  
Of the great Babel, and not feel the crowd,  
To hear the roar she pours through all her gates  
At safe distance, where the dying sound  
Falls a soft murmur on the uninjured ear.”

Though to others its exercises may be grateful and refreshing, to the scholar they must always be so. They compose the aliment of his nature—they are the very essence of his existence. The inordinate desire that fills and expands his mind may here indulge itself even to satiety, while the excess, instead of clogging, imparts additional stimulus to the appetite.

Institutions of this description are his natural resort. The lumbering rubbish of the schools is produced and burished into usefulness. He is no longer to pore over the folios of classic lore, or penetrate the depths of science only to re-commit their arcana to a depository as silent and inviolable as their original obscurity. Their knowledge has assumed its value, and their possessor has just estimation. He is no longer viewed as being of negative worth, but as the active benefactor of his species. The goddess he formerly wooed and enjoyed amidst the groves of the academy, he may now pursue with equal ardor and devotion among the shades of private retirement.

The fictitious and artificial character with which the schoolmen of less modern times were invested has been rent asunder by the influence of a rapid intellectual improvement, and the learned of the present age, instead of being its censors, mix in its gayeties and partake of its amusements, at once its ornaments and instructors.

So many and important, then, being the changes already produced by literary associations, "Is there no incentive to perseverance in an effort so nobly and successfully commenced?" The tide of literature once in full flow, what earthly power can assign bounds to its increase, or limits to its extent? As well could Niagara in its cataract be rolled back with the hand, or the ocean in his might be bound with a whisp.

That spirit of research which once tarried on the banks of the Issus is now in active operation amid the wilds of America, and the genius of the Stagirite, though in a foreign land, has again fixed its abode within the precincts of the lyceum. A simple but effective agent is at work. "The school master with his primer is abroad in the land," and, "if we desire to perpetuate our glorious political institutions, we must give all our people moral and intellectual cultivation—that man who improves his intellect for six days in the week, and, on the seventh, endeavors to give it the proper direction from the precepts of our holy religion, who learns to do unto others as he would they should do unto him — *that man will never become a tyrant, and he will never be made a slave.*"

The whole face of the civilized world is undergoing a wonderful moral and intellectual change, and the histories of nations which formerly were paths of blood, have deviated to those of peace. Foremost in the ranks of those advancing this mighty work we notice the standard of our own favored land. The palm of action and useful exertion has been stricken from the diadems of Europe, and

" Westward the course of empire takes its way,  
The first four scenes already past;  
A fifth shall close the drama with the day,  
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

PROVIDENCE, PA., Feb. 3, A. D. 1841.

## CHAPTER SIXTH.

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### A MEMORABLE TRAINING DAY.

The "Still House Rangers"—Military Manceuvers in Time of Peace—  
Fantastic Fun at the Expense of a Newly Made Colonel—A Laugh-  
able Episode.

A NOTE from a prominent gentleman, asking me to meet with a few others to-night, and discuss the feasibility of erecting a new and more commodious armory for the use of the gallant Thirteenth Regiment, brings to mind with many a smile the first essay that was made in matters military after I first located in the valley, when all was on a peace footing; and both the struggles with the aborigines, attended, as they were, by the bloodiest of atrocities, and the less sanguinary, but not less bitter animosities of the Pennamite War had faded out of the recollection of any but the then oldest inhabitants. Those who constituted the militia of the stormy days were, indeed, stern and grim-visaged warriors who had rallied for a noble purpose, even though uncouth and fantastic in their



equipment. They were summoned to arms by the calls of necessity so grave that all that was motley and unique in the appearance they must have presented was lost sight of in the heroism of their self-sacrifice. But at the time of which I write, swords had been turned into pruning hooks for many a day, and the spirit of belligerency which had been rekindled by the enthusiasm of the last war—that of '12—two decades and a half before, had quite died away, leaving a tranquil, happy people, who found in their conception of governmental principles no necessity for standing armies, even if they could conceive any menace to a government based upon the consent of the governed, firmly established, sorely tried and ever victorious, and commanding the respect and admiration of all portions of the civilized world. They were busy, self-contained, self-satisfied and self-reliant, and to them there was neither time nor necessity for rehearsing the arts of war. It is true that the old laws concerning muster and "General Trainin' Days" remained upon the statute books, in form and substance as they had been imported from the New England States, which had given the Commonwealth many of its most determined pioneers of the upper counties, but they had been for years practically a dead letter. Year by year, popular sentiment had been growing more and more adverse to prescribed military duty of any character what-



ever, and obedience to the annual summons to meet at Clark's Green and other points had been of the most negligent and perfunctory in the line of civil duties; therefore, there was a most vigorous and determined spirit of opposition awakened when, by the election of Benjamin Griffin captain of the militia, a thorough revival of the old spirit of the law was instituted. Exactly what prompted it, I cannot now recall. It may have been the spirit of fun, for that certainly predominated the observance of which I write. It was along in the summer of 1842 that a sprig of the law, clothed with full authority, came up from Wilkes-Barre, and served due notice on all of the settlers of military age to report, armed and equipped for duty, to the company captain at Hyde Park on the day fixed by law, or, in neglect thereof, to incur the penalty in such cases made and provided. It came at a most inconvenient season, when all were busy with their farms, their mills, their mines, their stores and their other avocations, and the summons was anything but a welcome one. Nevertheless the law was mandatory, and when this fact had been duly ascertained by Charles H. Silkman, it was resolved to make the best of it, and extract as much amusement out of the occasion as might be. The suspicion that a tincture of mischief among some of the wags of Wilkes-Barre, who were always inclined to have fun at the expense of their rustic

neighbors up the valley, had much to do with awakening a very decided opposition. There was also a good deal of feeling that the day of general training was insisted upon more because it afforded an opportunity for the erstwhile officers of "a little brief authority" to make local capital out of their prominence, than from any efficacy or any general public good that was promoted by it. The blades of the day conceived a conspiracy to make the day a pure burlesque, and thus turn the laugh on such laughers as might be inclined to smile in their sleeves at the glory which would surround them, when all their friends and acquaintances were obliged to obey their slightest behests; and this was the more readily entered into because there was a good popular majority antagonistic to the military idea; and because, too, the legal provision requiring either the payment of taxes or the performance of military duty, just as it had been written in times of more pervading martial spirit, still stood on the statute books, and yet was no answer to the importunities of the tax collector.

To meet the requirements of the programme decided upon, a mock company, known as the "Still House Rangers," was organized, and word was sent to each member of the band to make his preparations as picturesque as possible. The response was general, and the effect surpassed the

most sanguine expectations. No such fantastic assemblage of soldiery was ever seen in this valley before or since. It simply beggared description, and might have appropriately been christened "A Nightmare of Mars." From out of the homely store of the settler's cottage each one selected what best suited his ingenuity and ideas of the ridiculous; and as this Razorville contingent rendezvoused at the store, each fresh appearance elicited howls of merriment from the elder sympathizers who flocked from every quarter to see the fun, and added to their hilarity by frequent draughts of cider and whiskey. One of the most striking incongruities of the occasion was perpetrated by Bill Ray, a tinner, who was selected as the commandant of the contingent, and who equipped himself from his shop supplies, and sallied forth clad in armor that would have put Don Quixote to blush. He was helmeted with a glistening head-piece, and wore tin spurs with rowels the size of dinner plates. A bundle of rye straw did duty as a knapsack, and like all of the others he carried a gallon jug. Every conceivable weapon, from a flint-lock to a foot-adz, formed a part of the armament; and the colors of the uniform were like unto Joseph's celebrated coat. There were about twenty-five of these tatterdemalions, and to the music, not only of drum and fife, but of dinner horns, tin pots and pails, and

anything else that would make a din, under the command of Olney Bailey, of Abington, they marched down the old back road to Hyde Park, followed by all the inhabitants of the village.

Of course the organization of the Rangers had been kept a profound secret from the obnoxious military officials, though it was known in a quiet way to almost all other discreet persons, and the advent of the company was the most eagerly anticipated event of the day. When Captain Griffin had found out how unpopular his order was, instead of dampening his military enthusiasm, it simply stirred up his pertinacity, and he had determined to make the occasion as dignified and memorable as possible. He secured the use of the partly cleared field of William Ricketson, who kept the upper, or Red Tavern, and early in the morning repaired there, resplendent in his uniform and trappings, and posted his sentries to keep the gathering spectators off the improvised parade ground, while his lieutenants put such recruits as appeared from other sections through a primitive sort of "school of the soldier." If a certain air of suppressed merriment and mystery, half betrayed in the smiles and side-glances of the crowd, excited any misgivings on his part, they were not disclosed, and he was commanding his small retinue with considerable dignity, when the dis-

cordant blare of the Rangers' musicians was heard up the road. As the ensign they carried came in sight it was greeted with cheers and laughter, but there was no sign of merriment on the faces of the fantastics. Had they been on their way to a funeral or an execution, they could not have been more dignified. Each carried his jug with military precision, and they preserved a creditable cadence to the monotony of "Hay Foot, Straw Foot," as they repeated it in unison. They marched at once to the front of the hotel, and at the proper command, halted and faced right. Above the laughter of the crowd, the captain's voice rang out, "Foot to knee," and all knelt. "Knee to seat," and all sat on the ground. "Jug to lips." Twenty-five went up with alacrity. "Drink;" and they did. This manœuvre was the signal for another burst of applause, which brought all spectators from the parade ground. A committee was then appointed to report the presence of the contingent to the commanding officer and signify that it was in obedience to his orders; but, meanwhile the gate had been shut, and the sentry refused to open it. They then reported to Mr. Ricketson, explaining that they had assembled in obedience to the superior officer's orders, and demanded that they be admitted to the grounds, since they had been named in the order, and duty required that recruits should there report. Mr.

Ricketson, who himself loved a joke as well as any man in the valley, replied that he had rented his property to Captain Benjamin Griffin for the day, and therefore had no longer control of the property, but he added, with a merry twinkle of his eye, "If you break the gate down, I cannot help it." This was all the rally the contingent needed, and in a few minutes the Rangers were filing around the edge of the grounds, and adding to the noisy demonstrations of the admiring crowd. Their performance of course put a speedy end to the more dignified military operations, and, in twos and threes, the small company dropped out of ranks, to join in the general fun, leaving the captain very mad and helpless, and the Rangers thoroughly masters of the situation, with the sympathy of the crowd entirely on their side. After all attempt at drill had been given up, my old friend, Charlie Silkman, who was one of the band and was a good deal of a politician in those days, mounted a stump and delivered a rousing loco-foco talk, which created tremendous enthusiasm, as most of those present were so politically inclined. I have seen many military pageants since that time, but never one that was as unique, or gave greater delight to the spectators.

The work of the Rangers did not end with the day, however. They had organized for the pur-



pose of putting an end to a military law that was obnoxious, and having commenced with ridicule they found it their most effective weapon. The episode was written up at length for the *Wilkes-Barre Farmer*, one of the most influential papers of the day, and was the subject of much sarcastic comment that provoked similar opposition in other localities. When election rolled around, in the following autumn, the Rangers, and the anti-military sentiment they had fostered resulted in the selection as colonel of a notoriously half-witted egotist, who could not appreciate the fact that he had been made the butt of general ridicule, and by his insistence on preserving the ostensible dignity of his office made the whole system so generally unpopular that the attention of the Legislature was called to the existing law, and it was either repealed or became a dead letter. Since that time other and much more stirring events have brought about newer and better laws, obedience to which with cheerful alacrity, have ever constituted the safeguard of both national and local institutions, and of peace, prosperity and general advancement in all trying times; and the superb discipline and efficacy of one of the best volunteer regiments in the world marks, by contrast with the "General Training" of half a century ago, the advancement that we are making in all that tends to stability.



## CHAPTER SEVENTH.

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### THE LACKAWANNA SLACK-WATER PROJECT.

State Aid to Internal Improvements—Canal Transportation—The Tunkhannock Meeting—Preparation for the Report—Mr. Henry's Prompt Response—Industries of 1841—Exploration of the Coal and Iron Supply—Cogent Reasons for the Feeder Dam—An Interesting Bit of Correspondence.

THE completion of the North Branch Canal as far as Pittston marked the commencement of the decline of State aid to internal improvements. Prior to that time, it had been the policy of most of those prominent in both parties to advocate zealously all such paternal enterprizes. Unquestionably they had much to do with the early development of many parts of the State, and there was undoubted wisdom in the policy which fostered them. But what they accomplished for other sections was not accomplished for the Lackawanna Valley. The first projects all looked to the establishment of channels through which general commerce might be promoted great dis-

tances, and sought rather to establish through lines of traffic than to develop the resources of immediate districts. It was a broad and good policy as far as it went; but viewed in the light of subsequent improvements, it was as far from trending on what are now recognized as the most lucrative lines of State development as were the old Indian trails from coinciding with the present railroad routes. Nevertheless, in the early forties, canals were, in the popular mind, the all-important factors for transportation, and to them the attention of producers of every kind was directed as the most practical hope of unrestricted markets. It is true that there were railroads built and building; but they were not the demonstrated successes that canaling claimed. In this section, particularly, it is not strange that the idea of water-ways should predominate over the railroad idea, since the only iron way known in all the territory adjacent was the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company's Railroad; and this, as its name implies, was then an adjunct, rather than a principal in the corporation's business.

With active men so constrained in their views as to the best and most practicable means of affording easy market ways, it is not surprising that the energetic spirits of the portions of the upper Susquehanna, which had not yet received the benefits

of the North Branch Canal should commence some agitation to secure for themselves some of the benefits which enured to those located further down the river; and, to this end, early in the year '42, the popular feeling, which had been growing in half a dozen places, crystalized in the minds of a number of leading men, and resulted in a call for a meeting to bring the interests of the various neglected sections squarely before the next Legislature, and ask for such appropriations as would carry on the canal system, and make the respective sections they represented beneficiaries of open water ways. The meeting was held at Tunkhannock, and was attended by representative men from Wilkes-Barre, Towanda, Owego and other points. I was invited to represent the Lackawanna Valley, and, accompanied by Mr. Nathaniel Cottrell, who then was proprietor of the leading hostelry in Razorville, and an enterprising man, obeyed the summons. We went prepared to show, as time and development have since saved us the trouble of showing, that the Lackawanna section was the most important among those represented. We were filled with facts and enthusiasm; and, indeed, it required them both before we got through, for the meeting lasted well into the afternoon, and we were obliged to remain all night in a hotel that could so poorly accommodate us that all were obliged to sleep in the parlor on the floor, so that the

deliberations were carried on well into the night, and disputants fell asleep in the midst of their argument. It was one of the few important public meetings that I ever attended which had no formal public adjournment, and at which no leaves of absence were granted, save those that the grave has since dispensed to most of the participants.

Rev. George A. Mix, of Towanda, was chairman of the meeting, and committees were appointed to report on the resources of each of the localities represented, so there might be compiled, to accompany the memorial to the Legislature decided upon, suitable tables of statistics and funds of information to load up to the muzzle the Representatives who should espouse our cause. Sometimes I think that it is canny work like this that makes all our statesmen so wise nowadays also. I was appointed to report on Lackawanna, and of course accepted the task.

I may be pardoned for assuming that the work of compiling and preparing a report was not a difficult one for me to undertake, for a large practice made me thoroughly acquainted with all the settlers and their various enterprises. A lively interest in the fortunes of the valley in which I had cast my lot made me solicitous for the success of all my neighbors, and I watched keenly the pro-



gress each was making in his peculiar line, as my frequent visits gave me ample facilities for doing. Pride in mutual successes was general, for all interests were interwoven in the common cause of rapid development; and the starting of a mill, the raising of a new building, the opening of a store or mine, were common concerns of importance to the individuals of the entire community; and such concentration and union of strength, under strong and sagacious leadership, was having its noticeable effect, and adding each day to spirits and enthusiasm. There were few drones in the hive; and even the most indolent were carried with the tide of activity, almost insensibly. Until, at the earnest solicitation of Messrs. Scrantons, Grant & Co., I accepted the generous inducements they held out, and removed from Razorville to the vicinity of the Lackawanna Furnace, in 1846, by far the best part of my paying practice was at the works, and I visited them every day; many times, in fact, to deal out my fees in goods at the company's store—for the practice of medicine was not a lucrative one in those days, and I am constrained to add that a certain knack and decided love for trading horses, and getting the best of the bargain, more than once supplemented my slender cash income when it was most decidedly needed.

With a taste for science, and some knowledge of geology, I of course made myself familiar with the mineral resources, and in my many rides had abundant opportunity to examine the local formations attentively, and learn much about the folds and flexures that wrinkle the whole coal deposit of the valley. Those who owned these properties were daily companions; and, as a suitable outlet to the markets was the only obstacle to immediate development, there was the heartiest co-operation and warmest sympathy in anything that could further the canal project; for the hopes of a railroad had been warmed up in 1826 by the charter of the Susquehanna and Delaware Canal and Railroad Company, only to be again cooled by the inability to interest capital, and the consummation devoutly to be wished for was far removed indeed.

Among those to whom I wrote for specific information, was Mr. Henry, who then had charge of the recently completed furnace, and the promptness of his reply, given as it was, amidst the stress of most harrassing and perplexing duties, well illustrates how thoroughly the canal and slack-water idea had permeated us all. Special interest attaches to it also because it was written during the most critical period in the history of iron making in Slocum Hollow—a time when those who

had linked their lives and invested their fortunes in an enterprise almost in the wilderness were, after three most cruel disappointments, still hopeful and courageous and hovering about the furnace taking its temperature, watching its inspiration, noting its moods and changes as though it were a living thing. In fact, as dates show, the day that Mr. Henry wrote the subjoined letter the furnace was quite as sick as were the proprietors; and a digression here is admissible as illustrative of the fact. The original thirty-five foot stack, with its primitive blowing apparatus, driven by water power, was commenced in the early part of October, 1840. On the 23d of the previous month, the late W. W. Manness had laid off the foundations, and as soon as the necessary men could be secured the stack was pushed to completion.

The first attempt to put it in blast was made in September, 1841, and, as this was unsuccessful, another followed about a year later with like results. Mr. Platt has copied into his "Reminiscences" the following extract from a journal kept at the time that the third attempt was made: "*January 3, 1842*—Last night at about eleven o'clock, the blast was put on the furnace under the superintendence of Mr. Henry, assisted by a Mr. Clarke, of Stanhope, N. J. At about three o'clock, the furnace was bridged over the hearth. *January 4*

—Hiram and Henry Johnson and Raddle trying to work furnace; but, finding it too hard, the boshes above the temp were removed, and the coal and ore let slide through. *January 6*—H. and H. Johnson and Williams digging salamander out of furnace." After repairs had been made, Mr. Seldon T. Scranton, who had come up to see the previous effort, secured the services of the late John R. Davis; and under their joint supervision, the blast was put on January 18, "blowing," to quote the journal again, "about two weeks without making any iron of consequence." It was on January 26, 1842, during the two weeks of harrowing uncertainty, that the reply, quoted further on, was written; and it is characteristic of Mr. Henry that, even among all these trials and vexations, his enthusiasm, public spirit and unvarying courtesy were unruffled. While subsequent events proved he was not over sanguine, continued disappointment drove him from the enterprise; but it also served as another spur to awaken anew the indomitable will, energies and perseverance of Mr. G. W. Scranton,\* which booked no obstacle until he had

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\* Col. George W. Scranton was a lineal descendant of John Scranton, who came to this country from England in 1638, and settled at Madison, Conn., where the subject of this sketch was born, May 10, 1811. He came of a hardy, self-reliant race, public-spirited and intelligent, and there are numerous mentions of his ancestry in the Colonial records, where they were conspicuous in both the French and Revolutionary wars. He owed many of the characteristics which distin-



Engraving by E. B. B.

*How Scranton*





achieved the complete and magnificent development of this favored valley; and added to the material prosperity, and social and moral progress of all within her borders.

Now to return to the work of the conference. All of the committees appointed collected the industrial facts and statistics of their various localities, collated them, made reports and forwarded them to the general chairman; and he, in turn, prepared a memorial to the Legislature. A bill was introduced making the desired appropriation, and it was most zealously advocated by the Representatives there, Hon. George M. Hollenback, of Wilkes-Barre, doing noble service for this section. But

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guished him in so marked a degree to the careful nurture and training of a cultivated mother, who early developed in him that purity of purpose, conscientiousness in the discharge of every duty, and the promptitude and accuracy that were synonymous of his name to all who knew him. His early education was such as was given to boys who, in those days, were expected to carve their own destinies; but, in addition to the usual winter schooling, he studied two years at Lee's Academy, then a noted institution, under the superintendence of Major Robinson. Before he had completed his course, his uncle, Chapman Warner, offered him a situation in New Jersey, which was accepted, arriving in Belvidere in 1828. Here he entered into arduous duties that tried his mettle, and developed in him that self-reliance and persistent energy that were so potent factors in his subsequent career. After a few years he was invited to enter the partnership of Judge Kinney in a store. It was during this time that he married a most estimable and exemplary woman—Miss Jane Hiles, of Belvidere, and afterwards relinquished his mercantile life for one of agriculture. A few years later, in partnership with his brother, S. T. Scranton, he embarked in the iron business, buying out the firm of Henry Jordan & Co., at Oxford, N. J.

the lawmakers were obdurate and stupid, as they frequently are, and either the bill was killed, or some committee pigeon-holed it, loaded down with amendments—it matters little which. The famous feeder dam was never built; and, as a result, eight years later, the Legget's Gap charter was again brought forward, suitably amended, and the road constructed to form part of the splendidly equipped Delaware, Lackawanna & Western system, of which we feel so justly proud. It is a world of compensations, and this is one of them. There is another in the satisfaction in knowing that that night's sleep on the hard floor at Tunkhannock did not go for naught. It was the means of hav-

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In the meanwhile, Mr. Henry was maturing his plans to develop the ores of the Lackawanna Valley, and having been disappointed by the death of his associate, Mr. Armstrong, he appealed to the new firm, and after examining the ground, the new furnace was decided upon.

The almost herculean energy with which he overcame all obstacles and the details of his struggles are replete with interest. Colonel Scranton was always a Whig, and worked hard to secure the election of Clay in 1844; but, disappointed by the defeat of that statesman, took little active part in politics thereafter. Against his personal wishes, he was nominated as the champion of the Protectionists, in 1858, and after a brief but animated canvass, was elected by a majority of three thousand. He took a deep interest in the tariff measure, and it was said that no man in Congress contributed more to the perfection of the details than did he. He was disappointed by its failure to pass the Senate, but, not disheartened, was elected a second time, and went back prepared to promote this policy as zealously as ever. His health, which had been none too strong, now began to give way, and though it was thought at first that he would recover, the machinery of life was worn out, and he gradually sank only to pass peacefully away on March 24, 1861.

ing gathered and preserved local statistics which probably would never have been recorded then but for the agitation of the feeder dam question; and most of them gave a comprehensive and correct idea of the industrial status of the counties at that time. The following is a copy of the report I sent to Mr. Mix on

THE RESOURCES OF THE LACKAWANNA  
VALLEY.

GEORGE A. MIX, ESQ.

*Dear Sir*--In compliance with your request, as chairman to the committee appointed for the purpose of giving you statistical information, having myself the honor of belonging to such committee, I shall in discharge of such trust, briefly give you such information as relates only to that section of the Lackawanna Valley lying between its termination in the Wyoming Valley, of which ours is but a continuation, and a point seven miles south of Carbondale; presuming that from this point, the portion above (being in the immediate vicinity of the Delaware & Hudson Company) would not add any revenue of consequence to the North Branch extension, thus leaving about sixteen miles of the valley for my consideration. This valley attains a width of some four miles, and the land embraced between the ranges of mountains on either side presents a variety of bottom rolling lands, which, for agricultural purposes, can not be surpassed in beauty or richness of soil, or to better repay the husbandman for his labor.

Within this territory are now, in successful operation, thirty saw mills that will manufacture, on an average, five

million feet of timber annually, of which the greater portion would be sent to Philadelphia by canal. There are four flouring mills, three foundries, one axe factory, one scythe ditto, one powder ditto, all of which will add some revenue to the canal; but, as ultimately nothing can be expected from this valley that can benefit the State, aside from her mineral wealth, I will give you some idea of its coal and iron resources. Within the extent of territory mentioned, there are upwards of one hundred coal mines opened: and many of them are made at present a source of some profit, both from domestic and foreign markets. There are sent some five or six thousand tons annually, by sledges and wagons, to the States of New York and New Jersey, in exchange for salt, plaster, etc.

The extent of the coal in this valley is bounded by the mountains on its sides, where it can frequently be seen cropping out. Some few mines have been worked there with facility, and six strata can be satisfactorily traced that will not require draining. Undoubtedly many more exist yet to be discovered. However, for our purpose, this will be sufficient, comprising in depth of coal strata thirty-nine and one-half feet, ascending from the ravine at an angle of some twenty-five degrees, four hundred feet from the outcroppings. Throughout the whole valley, roofing is sufficient, so that propping will never be required; and abundant facilities are offered for openings. The ravines in all parts of the valley have made natural sections in the coal strata, frequently open to view, and at all times easily exposed by stripping off the covering formed by the action of the weather in crumbling the superincumbent slate and sandstone. The beds of the creeks and river are often solid coal. This whole field is accessible in the banks which limit the bottoms along the

river, and intersected by ravines, diverging on each side with the confluents of the stream, and offers singular facilities for mining and exportation, *whenever a channel of communication shall be found through the heart of the valley to connect with an outlet of trade.*

To form some idea of the quantity of coal in the region surveyed, "It may be premised," says Mr. Foster, "it embraces more than forty thousand acres. We will assume fifteen feet for this whole field, which all will admit is far short of that exists, which gives in round numbers, seventeen hundred tons per acre of coal for each foot of thickness." From these data we have over four hundred millions of tons—a quantity within a safe estimate, yet sufficient for an export of a quarter of a million tons per year for forty generations. In illustration of the proceeding estimate we are only to refer to the operations of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company for a few years past. As for the quality of Lackawanna coal, no comment is necessary where it is known. Suffice it to say that no anthracite coal stands before it in the country.

As for the quality of ores for smelting, their extent, etc., I will first quote from Silliman's Journal of Science and Arts, Vol. 18, No. 2, 1830. After this distinguished professor had made an examination of this valley, he remarks: "The large quantities of argillaceous, or clay iron ore, which are connected with the coal strata, and the bog ores which appear also to abound here, are well worthy the attention of the inhabitants, and it can be scarcely doubted that the difficulties hitherto experienced in the use of anthracite in the smelting of iron will be overcome, and then all the means of manufacturing iron will be at hand. ("Lime is entirely wanting in the valley.") It is worthy to remark that the professor's prophesy is now attained

most fully in the successful operations of various anthracite furnaces at Pottsville, Danville, and other places, not excepting our own favored valley.

I will here say that had Professor S. been more thorough in his examinations, he would not have said "Lime is entirely wanting in the valley," for from the perusal of the following correspondence from William Henry, Esq., to whom I am indebted for this portion of my report, it will be seen that the furnace of Messrs. Scranton, Grant & Co., built under his superintendence, at present uses in part limestone obtained in large quantities near at hand; so that we have in abundance every material for making iron, and by competent judges pronounced not inferior to any made in the United States, if not in the world.

The tonnage from the Lackawanna furnace, as estimated by Mr. Henry, will be:

1,800 tons of pig iron, per canal to Philadelphia,  
1,500 tons of limestone, merchandise, etc.,

—  
Making 3,300 tons.

Aside from the above, we have ten stores, on which we will

allow for each twenty-five tons transportation from Philadelphia, making . . . . . 250 tons

And allow for each to that point, five tons, making . . . . . 50 tons

—  
Making . . . . . 300 tons

Which, no doubt, is a low estimate, so far as I am informed.

In presenting the above, it no doubt will appear proper to state that as far as State revenue is to be expected from this valley, some channel of communication should be opened to her State works. It is now conceded by all who have taken pains to inform themselves, that, as far as the North Branch is to prove a benefit to this valley, it must be supplied with water sufficient to enable boats to



approach the mouth of the Lackawanna River, which at present is so sparing and uncertain, from the existing feeder dam, that no dependence can be placed upon it; and, thus far, merchandise destined for this valley has, with seldom an exception, been taken from the boats at various points fifty miles below and less, and transported by wagons to the ultimate destination, which adds to the transportation enough to turn the channel of the natural trade from Philadelphia to New York, and from thence is brought to a point that dependence can be placed upon through the canal and railroad of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, yielding to them a profitable sum of revenue that might with ease be diverted.

The present feeder dam that supplies the finished portion of this great State work, being built on the foundation of an old mill dam, composed of timbers, brush, gravel, straw and other light materials, that frequently give way, to the floods that arise during the season, making a great State work justly a subject of ridicule and reproach; when, at a short distance above, the God of Nature has located a site as permanent as her everlasting hills, and only requires the hand of art to repair to perfection a feeder for this grand project of internal improvement, as lasting as time.

By such expenditure, which is estimated at less than one hundred thousand dollars—a small sum in comparison to the advantages that will be derived by the State, as well as give an impulse to individual enterprise to bring into notice a valley where resources are incalculable—I will venture the assertion that, upon the completion of a feeder dam, five years will not elapse ere the State is reimbursed this outlay, and has secured a revenue in futurity that will pay her share toward paying the principal and interest of construction, both of canal and feeder.

This feeder dam is asked for on other grounds than being actually and imperatively required for the perfection of navigation as far as the North Branch Canal is completed; and I base it upon this principle, that the State receives small revenue from her public works. They have opened up the main channels entirely to the neglect of profitable side cuts that would have brought immense benefit at trifling expense; but had the expenditure required been made for the completion of a permanent feeder dam, when this project was completed to this point, her canal would not have been a stagnant frog pond, green with age, and putrid for want of motion for some twenty miles below.

Again, I have remarked incidentally that individual enterprises would be awakened by the completion of the feeder dam as asked. You may ask the reason of this remark. I answer that the back water on this dam will be sufficient to make slack water navigation for eight miles up the Lackawanna River, which individual owners of property willingly perfect, that their immense mineral wealth may become something more than imaginary.

But grant this request, and I care not whether the State spends more upon the continuation of the North Branch Canal. Her profit that was once in anticipation will be realized from this section, and she will have one more demonstration of the wise policy of stopping by the way to grasp what can easily be made a prize.

I remain very truly yours, etc.,

B. H. THROOP, M. D.

*P. S.*—As yet, water powers remain to be improved to a great extent, as more than one-third existing have been brought into use by the hand of art.

The following is the correspondence above referred to:

PROVIDENCE, January 14, 1842.

WILLIAM HENRY, ESQ.

*Dear Sir*—Will you favor me with what information you are possessed of in regard to the facilities offered in this and adjacent townships, Luzerne County, for the manufacture of iron, and oblige,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

BENJ. H. THROOP.

To this letter came the following reply:

LACKAWANNA FURNACE, January 26, 1842.

DR. THROOP.

*Dear Sir*—In answer to your enquiries respecting the materials required in the manufacture of iron "in this and the adjacent townships, Luzerne County," I would remark that there is anthracite coal well adapted—in quantity to an immense extent, easily mined—the ores of the valley, in veins, overlying or underlying the coal, everywhere abound. They are spheroidal and lamellar clay ores of good quality, probably yielding an average of thirty-eight per cent. of iron in the large way. Outside of the coal measures there are regular veins of iron of an excellent quality, varying from two to four and a half feet of pure ore—the kind mostly used at this furnace—mined at a cost of less than a dollar a ton. So far as my examinations have extended, it is found continuous for say seven to eight miles in length, and very probably is to be found along the whole length of the Valley of the Lackawanna.

The quality is tested. The iron made of it has, by competent judges, after manufacturing it, been pronounced equal to the best made in this or any other country for foundry purposes, and I think will prove good iron manufactured into bars. Silicious ores, outcroppings of which are seen on both sides of the coal valley in regular strata of very great extent, and various calcareous stones are found, which may become useful as fluxes. Several regular veins of limestone are seen, one of three feet in thickness we are working now, and the stone is in part used as flux in the furnace, possessing silicious properties which are well adapted to work with argillaceous ores. A part of the calcareous materials now used have been brought from the limestone hills of Columbia County. Comparing this district of country with others occupied by iron works known to me in Pennsylvania, I have formed the deliberate opinion that none offers greater inducements for the capitalist and manufacturer; at the same time, the agriculturalist has a fine, open and fertile valley for his uses.

Very truly yours in haste,

WILLIAM HENRY.

Canal transportation from here probably will be near the following amounts, say:

	1,800 tons of pig iron,
Limestone, merchandise, etc.,	1,500 tons.
	<hr/>
	3,300 tons, exclusive ore or coal.

Permit me to say that Messrs. Champion & Chase expect to transport nearly half a million feet of lumber for this year. Other mills exist, all of which you know.

## CHAPTER EIGHTH.

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### SOME MEDICAL MEMORIES.

The Earliest Physician in the Valley—"Granny Sprague," the Proprietary Medicine Manufacturer—Dr. William Hooker Smith and His Early Iron Making—Drs. Davis, Robinson and Seaver—My Early Experiences—Difficulty in Getting Drugs and Medicines—Queer Surgical Emergencies—Scranton's General Health.

**A**MONG the annals of a long and busy life, there are but few chapters to which I attach more of personal interest, or recall more vivid and varying experiences, than those that deal with the professional recollections of over five decades. They comprehend a series of mental photographs wherein Momus and Melpomene are grouped side by side, and embrace almost every possible shade of skill and contrast of method which can come from wider knowledge and better facility. The practicing physician of the pioneer settlement was not freer from harrassing difficulties than was he of any other calling. With him, as with others, mother wit and natural resources had to be constantly drawn upon in

many an emergency, and he labored under the additional burden of having to conceal the make-shifts demanded by a not lucrative, but most exacting round of duties.

From the earliest record's available, it would seem that Dr. Joseph Sprague, who was one of the proprietors of "Ye Town of Lackaworna," came into the valley from Hartford, Conn., in 1771, and settled just below Spring Brook. Like some of his successors in the profession that might be mentioned, he made more money out of his real estate transactions than he did out of his practice; and within a year after he had located, his first sales are noted in the Westmoreland records. He farmed vicariously, and practiced when opportunity presented itself, for about twelve years; when, with others of the Yankees, he was driven out by the Pennamites, and died in his native State the next year. His widow returned, and located in Wilkes-Barre; and was for many years the only accoucheur in this section. "Granny Sprague," as she was familiarly known, was present at the birth of hundreds of the children of the pioneers, and was in practice as late as 1810. She was also the compounder of a number of special root and herb remedies, which she kept on sale at her log hut on the corner of Main and Union Streets, in Wilkes-Barre; and from these must have derived her prin-



cial support, since she charged but one dollar for her professional services at a confinement. She has, therefore, the additional distinction of being the first owner of proprietary medicines.

To Dr. William Hooker Smith, who was the second physician to locate in the vicinity, the early settlers owe much, both of health and prosperity. He located in Wilkes-Barre clearing in 1772, having come from New York, where his father was the only Presbyterian clergyman, and had a charge at White Plains. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and was also the surgeon of Sullivan's army, for which Congress voted his heirs \$2,400.00 in 1838. He was one of the first to recognize the value of stone coal and the iron ores; and on his return from Sullivan's expedition, located on the rocky ledge at Old Forge and, with William Sutton, erected the trip hammer which gave the place its name. He died at the ripe age of ninety-one, in 1815, near Tunkhannock, whither he had removed when the infirmities of age, and the keen competition that had grown up at Slocum's Hollow, made it advisable to abandon the forge.

The first physician to locate in Providence Township was Dr. Joseph Davis, a graduate at Yale College, and a bold and skillful practitioner, who settled at Slocum's Hollow in 1800. He also lived to

a ripe age, coming within two years of completing a century. Dr. Silas B. Robinson settled in the township in 1823. Born in Otsego, New York, he had but an ordinary education; but after reading under the direction of several prominent physicians of that State, received his diploma from the Otsego Medical Society in 1821. There were only two other physicians in the valley at this time, and he had a large practice, which extended into adjoining counties. His sudden death, which occurred from congestion, in 1860, was widely deplored, as he was a man of sterling worth, vigorous habit, blunt manners and blameless life. Dr. David Seaver, of Wayne County, settled in Providence in 1834, but remained only three years. These were my predecessors in the valley; and it is interesting to note, in this connection, that it was among the medical profession that both fuel and mineral interests, the foundation stones of Scranton's prosperity, were first noted; as was, also, that other natural concomitant of industrial progress—fortunes to be made on the increase in real estate values. I came here in 1840, as is elsewhere noted.

In the early days, the circuit that I rode was about fifty miles, and calls came from all parts of it, usually only when the patient had progressed so far with his malady that home treatment would

no longer suffice. The frugal people of that day and generation did not rush off for a doctor at every trivial ill. They waited until they were very sick, till every domestic remedy had been exhausted, and usually waited until it was a race between death and the doctor to see who could get there first. Equipped with all of the medicines he expected to use, the man of pills and potions came on the scene. His capacious saddle-pockets were the limit of the materials of *Materia Medica* at his disposal. Many of these he had to gather and prepare himself, and a good knowledge of botany was not one of the least of his requisites. Such tinctures and extracts as could be prepared from the flora of the vicinity were made at his own home; others were purchased of Dr. Sweet, of Carbondale, who supplied most of the valley trade. Since the doctor made his calls on credit, and furnished the medicine, it also followed that he had to purchase his supplies in the same way, and this often led to an uncomfortable state of things. I recollect that I was frequently sued by Dr. Sweet for my drug bill. Not that I did not want to pay it, but because I had no money to pay it with. Just after the panic of 1837, there was very little money in this part of the country, except the script that was issued by the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, and barter had to be resorted to, except where these "shin plasters" could be made to go,

and that was not always for the kind of plasters that my patients needed. Still, in some way, we managed to worry through; and some of the cures that were accomplished were quite as remarkable as those of to-day, which are heralded through the press as phenomenal.

In surgery, we had some remarkable cases; and they often taxed the ingenuity of the practitioner to the utmost. I remember that on one occasion I was called to Tobyhanna to see a man who had been crushed by the cars three days before. When I got there, I found his abdominal region filled up by a dropsical effusion; and an immediate operation was all that could save him from speedy death. I had come unprepared, not having had time to go home after my instruments when the call reached me. But I couldn't back out if I had so desired. I prepared a large goose quill for service as a trocar, made the incision with a thumb lancet, drew about two pails of blueish secretion therefrom, left some medicine, and went away never expecting to see him again in this world. A few weeks afterward, a man stopped me near the furnace with a hearty greeting; and, as I looked, and saw that it was my late patient, I could not help exclaiming:

“Hark, from the tomb, a doleful sound,  
Mine ear attend its cry.”

Another time I was called to attend a case down on Bear Creek. When we got within about two miles of the house the road ended abruptly, and I was obliged to abandon my cutter, mount one of my horses, lead the other, and ride through the woods to the top of the mountain, where I found a man who had both of his feet frozen nearly up to the ankles. Gangrene had set in, and an immediate amputation was necessary. Here, again, I was unprepared, but had to be equal to the emergency. The only instruments available were a dull razor and a common hand-saw. With these, and some common thread for ligatures, I managed to make an amputation of both feet. They were not as handsome operations as I have seen, but the man had plenty of nerve, and not only withstood the shock in a most surprising manner, but got well much more speedily than is usual in such cases. Such were the constitutions men had in those days. Inured as they were to all sorts of hardship, they could survive what would probably be fatal nowadays.

The general health of the valley was good. Habits were simple and natural. There was plenty of hard work, and good wholesome food, with happiness and contentment to promote digestion. Occasionally there was an epidemic, generally due to some local causes, but we were

fairly free, even from these. One of the most severe was of what was then called malignant scarlatina, but would now be called diphtheria, and occurred in 1842-43. It was extended, though the mortality was not nearly so great as one which occurred nearly ten years subsequently. In 1852 it returned as a peculiarly fatal epidemic of a most malignant type, which seemed to baffle all medical skill, and many homes in Scranton and vicinity were invaded—my own not being exempt—but, all things being considered, Scranton has had a singularly good mortality record ever since I have known anything of its medical history.

Dr. Horace H. Hollister came from his Wayne county home to study medicine with me, and was in my office three years, and took my practice when I removed to Carbondale. There I remained until 1845, when I completed the first house in Scranton and removed here with my family. From that time I was pretty constantly occupied with both business and practice, and yet found leisure to take part in most matters of a public nature where I could be of any service. The medical experiences of those later days, to which any special interest attaches, are recorded in other portions of these recollections.



## CHAPTER NINTH.

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### THE LACKAWANNA IRON & STEEL COMPANY.

Scranton's Good Fairy—Status in 1838—The Drinker Road and Its Fruits—William Henry's Enterprise—The Purchase Consummated—A General Disappointment—Colonel George W. Scranton—The Furnace Begun—Advice to Young Doctors—W. W. Man-ness' First Work—Credit Impaired—The First Fruitless Attempts—Others, and Then Success—Fresh Discouragement and New Enterprise—An Interesting Incident.

IN thus far briefly tracing the history of what was originally all in Providence Township, and in incidentally attempting to reproduce pen sketches of some of the mental photographs made on a mind doubly receptive at the time, because a personal future was involved in the success of the venture being made in the valley in which I had cast my lot, I have referred but indirectly to the very early history of the Lackawanna Iron & Steel Company, which has done more to develop the prosperity of the entire valley than all of the other events in its early history.

I have premised in the introduction to these papers that certain conditions locate and develop great cities infortuitously, and in obedience to fixed laws; yet it is also true, that to grasp and apply these principles to practical results requires men so rare that they seem to have just chanced to have found the right spot in which to utilize all of their powers to the utmost. It has been held on fairly reasonable grounds that had Sir Isaac Newton never been born, or had the particular apple which set his gigantic mind to working, been eaten unripe by some urchin with Eve-inherited proclivities for forbidden fruit, the discovery of the Law of Gravitation would hardly have been retarded many years. Perhaps this is true, but it certainly is true that the rise, progress and success of Scranton is due, in a great measure, to the indomitable energy and combined efforts of a few men who bent their wills inflexibly to one purpose, and out of their achievement grew the Lackawanna Iron & Steel Company. The annals of the company's progress are so intimately interwoven with the earlier portion of the city's history that it is well-nigh impossible to separate them.

In 1838, the fires of the old Slocum forge had long been cold, and the once bright hope of utilizing the local iron deposit was a thing of the past.

The agricultural community trusted that some day there would be better facilities for getting their products to market, and the possibility of extending the North Branch Canal up the Lackawanna was one of the possible gifts of the future. Beyond this there was nothing. One of the projects that had been evolved from the fertile and busy brain of Henry Drinker, Esq., was what was known as "The Drinker Railroad," which was to give a rail outlet from this section. The charter had been granted in 1836, and the next three years saw a number of those interested exploring the mountains and valleys in search of a suitable route. Among these was William Henry, one of the original commissioners named in the charter; and he thus became familiar with the early attempts to make iron here, as well as with the ore and stone, which he took to be all that were necessary for the successful manufacture of a good quality of iron with anthracite coal. He advocated the building of a furnace here, and the maintenance of it for a number of years; since the town that would naturally grow up about such an industry, would prove a profitable investment, as well as make business for the road. His enthusiasm communicated itself to William Armstrong, of Newburg, N. Y., a man of means; and the latter commissioned Mr. Henry to negotiate the purchase.

The abandoned forge and mill property had passed through several hands for a very small consideration since the death of Mr. Slocum, and was owned at the time by William Merrifield, Zeno Albro and William Rickettson. Mr. Henry arranged with them to take the tract for himself and partner for sixteen dollars an acre, there being five hundred and three acres in all; and the bargain would have been consummated but for the untimely death of Mr. Armstrong. Nothing daunted, Mr. Henry repaired to Oxford, where his brother-in-law, Selden T. Scranton was living, and related to him the circumstances. He became interested; and persuading Mr. Sanford Grant, of Belvidere, to accompany them, they visited "the Hollow." The death of Mr. Armstrong had secured for Mr. Henry an extension of days on his option—still time was short. It was deemed advisable to strengthen the firm; Mr. Phillip Mattes, of Easton, the trusted agent of the old United States Branch Bank at that place, was added, so that the firm was composed of Selden T. and George W. Scranton, Sanford Grant and Phillip Mattes, under the style of Scrantons, Grant & Company. These raised the amount necessary to make the agreed payment of two thousand five hundred dollars, and a bond and mortgage was given for the balance of the purchase money. To a man of prudence, it would have been a visionary

scheme, and would have proved so; but the indomitable will of Colonel George W. Scranton, who assumed charge after a time, and prevented it from being a stupendous failure. He had faith, and, backed by a commanding presence, his earnestness and honor were never doubted; and to this we are indebted to-day for what we have. Had he have been of a sickly sentimental turn, no confidence could have controlled the capital. The iron ore proved a failure; the lime which Mr. Henry thought existed on the banks of the Roaring Brook also was worthless; and it cost thousands of dollars to demonstrate that we had nothing that was required to make iron except anthracite coal. "We brought the mountain to Mahomet to worship." We had coal; though a long, tedious series of disasters were gone through with before any success attended the efforts of these indomitable men.

My arrival in Razorville, alias Providence, was October 8, 1840; but I had made a day's visit a month earlier, when I heard of the purchase of this property, which was then said to contain in abundance the three necessary articles for its undoubted success, to wit: iron ore, lime and coal. It certainly was a splendid venture—and the large experience, and undoubted knowledge, and good judgment of Mr. Henry would have made all

happy had it panned out precisely as he had predicted—but the proof of the fact was a great disappointment to all. The lime was the large body of rocks the railroad tunnel perforates a half mile from the furnace, where yet may be seen the track of the road he built on the south side of Roaring Brook, this side of the tunnel, that proved to be anything but lime. The iron ore was better. It lay in boulders in the five feet of fire clay that overlies the coal seam along the bank of the brook on the north side. That finally proved the only element they had which was of any value.

The purchasers entered into possession as soon as practicable, and at once began to make ready for operations. Mr. Henry remained in charge; and on the eleventh of September, Mr. Simon Ward did the first day's work on the projected furnace. It was only a day or two after this that I came to Providence on my first visit. After my arrival in town, I started out on an exploring expedition. I first ventured, as I had been advised, to Slocum Hollow, by way of Hyde Park; and crossed the Lackawanna at the only bridge below, now known as Dodgetown. The Providence bridge was near at hand; but the road was little traveled, and much of it in the woods, where no path existed, except such as was used in drawing logs to the old mill, where the furnace now stands.



I reached the place all right in my sulky and with the bob-tailed pacer, that did much to hasten my acquaintance through the country, from the rapidity of his motion, which set everybody to wondering how a horse could go so fast and not run. It lead everybody to inquire about the owner; and here I will advise all young doctors that go among strangers to eke out a living, by practicing medicine especially, to get a fast nag, and pass everybody on the road. They are sure to find out who and what the owner is, for everybody has a fancy for the horse, if not the owner. This horse is a digression; to return to my subject:

The first man I met at Slocum's Hollow was W. W. Manness, who was then building a house on the ground now occupied by the large engine house, north of the five furnaces. The first furnace, occupying the site of the present northern furnace, was to be run by the water power already there, and which had been utilized for an old saw-mill for many years. The building Mr. Manness was constructing was used, after its completion, as a dwelling house, an office for the company, and afterwards, for a time, as a store. After the store was supplanted by one of brick, it answered for many years for a hotel, and was first kept by Mr. Snyder, and afterward by Mr. Kressler for many

years, or until the Wyoming House was built, in 1852. The first furnace was commenced by Mr. Simon Ward, who did the first day's work under the new firm in September, 1840; and be it said to the credit of both of these faithful artisans, that they both were the recipients of the fruits of their industry, and passed from among us honored and respected by all.

At this time little was said about this iron company or its operations. Mr. Henry made occasional visits; and, the following spring, moved his family here, and occupied a house at Fellows' Corners. The main business was done under the superintendence of Messrs. Ward and Manness. Occasionally Colonel Scranton would drive up over the Drinker Turnpike from his home at Belvidere, and bring with him the "sinews of war," and was always a welcome visitor. The company had built a few boarding houses for their men, and a few tenant houses for those having families. There was but little said through the country about the new venture, and its success was generally doubted; so much, in fact, that the company's credit was badly impaired, especially with the capitalists. This was peculiarly true of those at Wilkes-Barre, who were always deprecating the success of this enterprise, as they had some experience in that line among themselves. But

they did not know the men. However, as the thing progressed, every one connected with it became more anxious. They had exhausted more capital than was expected, and some were disheartened; but they braced up, and kept moving along, until they finally commenced the manufacture of iron.

The furnace was filled in 1841 and fired up. It was charged with the material they had collected on their own premises, and the heat was kept up for some time, and finally tapped for the hoped-for result. After days and nights of intense anxiety, the thing turned out a dead failure; they saw the danger of a chill, knew the results, should it ensue; and, as an experiment to avoid it, purchased all the sulphur and brimstone in the country, and put in the furnace with plenty of coal. But all to no effect. The tapping for iron was fruitless, the furnace chilled, filled with stove coal and iron enough to cement the whole thing in a solid mass, that it took weeks to remove. Not dismayed, they worked day and night clearing the furnace for another trial, not yet doubting they had the true material; and, at great cost and labor, obtained a new furnaceman. The making of iron with anthracite coal was yet an experiment, and they secured the services of Mr. John Davis, of Danville, who was finally successful.

And now another season of hard work for weeks was before them to again dig out the conglomerated mass of welded stone, coal and iron, with large sledges and hardened steel. Upon this occasion Colonel George W. Scranton came to the front, who, in those days, was a man for the occasion. He would swing the heaviest hammers with more blows than any of his athletic companions; and here it was that he injured his heart in a way that led, no doubt, to his early demise. Colonel Scranton was "every inch a man;" over six feet, broad shouldered, stout as a giant, as amiable and modest as a child, and on all occasions a gentleman.

At this failure, it was demonstrated that the trouble was in the lime. Though it would indicate lime chemically, and there was some reaction with acids, yet for the purpose of iron making, it was worthless. What was to be the next move? They went to Lime Ridge, in Columbia County, and purchased a section of Lime Ridge, and arranged to have the limestone brought up in boats to Pittston, and from there conveyed in wagons to the furnace—a work which kept all the spare teams in the country, as well as all of the company teams, busy for all time after, until the Bloomsburg Railroad was built.

The iron ore, thus far, had been obtained in boulders, buried in the fire clay, as before mentioned, and was drilled and blasted, or broken in some way, before use. At the same time, bog ore was found in small quantities at Green Ridge, on the Albro farm. This had some good quality for mixing with other ores. About this time, iron ore was also discovered about four miles south, on the mountain, and a railroad of very easy construction was improvised, that answered for transporting logs and ore for some time. This last ore was of a richer kind, but made iron that was of an inferior quality for almost any use. The ore averaged only about thirty per cent. metallic iron.

Many families lived at the mines for two or three years; but I have now got before my story, and must return to the third trial of making iron. Two loaded furnaces having collapsed, the whole concern was brought into a condition of extremes. It was financial death to the whole party, should they make the third failure; and the way to avoid such a result was a matter of constant study.

The third trial was commenced with a view of conquering. First, to demonstrate that iron could be made with anthracite coal; second, that it could be done with the ores they had at hand. At the

new beds, found some three miles on the mountain, ore was more plentiful and could be produced at less cost, even after hauling it to the furnace. The lime was brought from Columbia County; the coal was at hand, and mined on the grounds contiguous to them, on both sides of Roaring Brook. After all was ready, and the furnace was loaded, an old tradition of the iron districts in Wales, from which he had come, occurred to Mr. Davis. It was that, in order to have good luck with a new furnace, a lady must apply the match. It was resolved to give this gallant legend a test. Mr. Sanford Grant had recently arrived with his wife; and, accordingly, she was asked to do the honors. She was waited upon from her house by all the gentlemen of the place, who formed a procession, escorted her to the furnace, where she kindled the flame of Scranton's prosperity, that finally proved a success. After a proper time, the molten metal poured forth in goodly quantity, and made all happy. The problem was solved, all their wishes gratified, and Slocum's Hollow from that day has been progressing upward.

The great question of iron making being solved, another problem claimed the company's attention. What should they do with their product. In this country, there was no demand or market for it. The long haul to Carbondale, and then the high



freight would not pay a profit in any eastern market, and the southern market had enough of their own, and it would be sending coals to New Castle. The finances of the company were exhausted, their credit was impaired; and under this press, a change was made in affairs. Mr. Henry, who had been the head of the concern from the start, resigned to Colonel George W. Scranton. The first thing the latter had to do was to provide funds; he had exhausted his own and the rest of the partners'. He took the animal by the horns; and through his efforts with men of capital, the means were procured; first ten thousand dollars from his cousin, Joseph H. Scranton,\* then of

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\* Joseph H. Scranton was born in Madison, New Haven County, Connecticut, June 28, 1813, of old Puritan stock that had settled there in 1638. The earlier generations were men of enterprise, and engaged in the erection of public works of various character; and the marked executive ability and indefatigable energy that were with him such conspicuous traits, were an ancestral inheritance. His early training was that which was usually accorded to a New England boy; and in addition to the usual tuition in the schools of the time, he was the recipient of much practical experience in vacation times, when he assisted his relatives in the construction of wharves, break-waters, light-houses, and other works of similar nature. Later he engaged in mercantile pursuits in New Haven, after which, when scarcely more than a youth, his fortunes led him southward, and he soon took his place at the head of a commercial house in Augusta, Ga., where, within a few years, he amassed what was considered an ample fortune. He had been south for little more than a decade, when he was first induced to invest some of his idle capital in the venture that his cousins were making in the Lackawanna Valley, and in this way became acquainted with the mineral wealth and grand possibilities that Slocum's Hollow offered as a field for his activities. He kept gradually increasing his investments, and at last took up his residence here, in

Augusta, Georgia; and after from another cousin, Erastus Scranton, of New Haven, who put in the same amount. After these: Messrs. Moore, Hartman, Phelps, Dodge, Buckley; and later John I. Blair and Moses Taylor; and together, these resurrected the whole from poverty to independence, and placed the venture on a stable and firm foundation.

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1847. He was a member successively of the firms of Scrantons & Grant, and Scrantons & Platt, and in 1853, on the organization of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, became its general manager, which position he retained until his death. To this work he brought an executive ability and practical financial management that built up princely fortunes for all who were interested in it, and it has been truly said of him that in these qualities he was not surpassed by any man of his generation. Keen, shrewd, far-seeing, yet just, his mind comprehended a wide-sweeping knowledge of all the conditions necessary for the success of every undertaking that he had in hand. Coupled with this masterly grasp of the situation, he had the rare faculty of transmitting his own energy and enthusiasm to all with whom he was associated, and of systematizing every detail of the great concerns over which he was called to preside. At his death, he left the company in the condition of one of the most extensive and prosperous iron producing industries in the country. He was interested in most of the prominent enterprises of the valley, and in 1861, was appointed, by Congress, one of the first commissioners of the Union Pacific Railroad.

In his private life, Mr. Scranton was a lovely character. He was an earnest Christian, and left a legacy of virtues to his family. His energetic life of nearly three score years had impaired a once vigorous constitution, and, in 1872, accompanied by one of his daughters, he sought much needed rest and recuperation in Europe. But the activity had been too prolonged, and the wheels of life were run down. He died at Baden Baden, June 6th, 1872.

At that early day, with a large stock of pig iron that they could not sell, they concluded to manufacture it into nails. The company had become stronger in capital; and in 1843-1844, constructed a rolling mill and nail factory, above the furnaces, at a heavy expense. Mr. Grant, one of the original partners, weakened and sold out to Mr. Joseph H. Scranton for the amount he had invested, losing four years of hard work in conducting the store that was started with the undertaking, and thought himself happy once more. After a year or more, Mr. J. C. Platt, who was connected by marriage with Mrs. Scranton, closed his store at Fair Haven, Connecticut, and came here about 1846. He was the merchant of the concern for many years; and filled other responsible positions under the company until his death in 1887.

The manufacture of nails and merchant iron, after a time, seemed a success. Thousands of tons were made; and nails in abundance were transported on wagons to Carbondale and Pittston, destined for New York and other markets. In fact, they glutted both market extremes, until the tide turned; and the nails, in many cases, were returned in large quantities, and had no sale at home. The quality of the iron was not suitable. It was "red short," 'twas said—so hard and brittle that at least every third nail would break in driv-

ing, unless a thoroughly instructed expert had a hand at the hammer. Thus, after a long time, everything seemed to turn against the company; but they had a general at the head who was never beaten, and could not be discouraged, and one who had the "sinews of war" at his command, as well. But 'twas hard times; the country had not recovered from the great financial troubles of 1837-38, when all the banks suspended. Specie was at a premium. The Safety Fund Bubble, of New York, had burst; and shin plasters were the order of the day for small change. What was next to be done to save the ship? A happy thought came to the mind of William E. Dodge, who was a large stockholder in the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, which had been chartered then, as well as in the Erie Railroad, which had reached the Delaware River. Through him the Erie Railroad Company advanced \$100,000 to the Iron Company to change the nail mill to a rolling mill, and furnish rails for the extension of that road from Port Jervis to Binghamton.

This was a vast undertaking. The remodeling of a mill, and the introduction of ponderous machinery, is no small matter, even in these days of easy transportation; and when it is taken into consideration that all of the new, heavy iron machinery had to be carted by mules for sixty or

seventy miles, over mountains, through glade and in forests, where a rude pass-way was only chopped out, it becomes a stupendous work. The first fifteen thousand tons of railroad iron, made on a contract originally providing for only twelve thousand, was made promptly, and delivered at the mouth of the Lackawaxen, from whence it was taken by canal to Port Jervis, and completed the road from there to Otisville. A number of injunctions, and other inconveniences, that grew out of the opposition to the road, had delayed the Erie people seriously by the time that this portion of the road was completed. It was absolutely necessary, to get through within the specified time, that the track-laying should proceed simultaneously at a number of different points, as fast as the grading was finished. When this fact became evident, Mr. Scranton undertook another herculean task. He offered to deliver seven thousand tons of iron, in suitable proportion, at six different points: Big Eddy, Cochection, Equinunc, Stockport, Summit and Lanesboro. It played sad havoc with the agricultural interests for a season, for every available mule and draught horse in the country round was pressed into service; but the company was able to lay track along one hundred and thirty miles of bed at once, and by completion of its line four days ahead of time, save the three hundred thousand dollars donated by the State of New

York on condition that the road should be completed to Binghamton by a date specified in the act granting the appropriation.

At the opening of the Northern Division of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, Mr. Loder, who was president of the Erie at the time of its construction, paid a high tribute to the energy and promptness with which Mr. Scranton fulfilled his contract. Had he and his mills not met the emergency, the railroad must have either failed or suspended; so that his indomitable enterprise not only saved the Scranton company themselves, but was also a most potent factor in the success of the magnificent Erie railroad system.

I have meant in my reveries of Slocum's Hollow, Harrison, Scrantonia, and finally Scranton, to fill a place in the history which had not been written—to bring up the story from the time of its birth until the child had developed in all of her queenly beauty. The first few years were a severe ordeal, and but few can have any idea of the trials and tribulations the first purchasers had to endure. Their all was invested in the land and developments necessary to bring about their anticipations; and the failure of ores and lime threw them into the most straightened circumstances that but few could survive, disheartening as everything turned



out. To surmount all these difficulties was the work of master minds; and the Scrantons, both Selden T. and George W., were the men for the occasion—Colonel George W. for procuring the “sinews of war,” and Selden T. for disposing of them to the greatest advantage.

An incident, perhaps, that might be omitted with propriety—yet one having an important share in the venture—I will relate, only to show the exigency of the times and of the occasion. It was in March, 1843, just before the celebration of St. Patrick, that Colonel Scranton came to my house in Providence early one morning, and informed me that they had no money for their men. They had made all preparations for a grand parade, the first ever celebrated in this valley. He asked me if I had any friends that had money. I said, “Yes.”

“Can you influence them to make us a loan.”

“Well, that’s the question.”

“I must have some; I have just returned from Belvidere, and could not get a dollar; and never felt more disheartened in my life.”

“Well, Colonel,” I said, “if you will go with me to Carbondale, I will do all I can for you.”

I harnessed up, and off we started for Carbondale. Arriving there in due time, I found my friend Knapp, and gave him an introduction; and,

after a pleasant evening—and no man was ever given better powers of persuasion than Colonel Scranton had—we obtained a thousand dollars. That was good luck, so far as it went; but was not enough. He wanted another thousand. Then I proposed to continue our journey the next day to Honesdale, where we renewed the attack; and succeeded in obtaining seven hundred more. Then started for home a couple of as happy men as ever crossed the Moosic; and St. Patrick was never more adored than upon that occasion. And I felt proud, also, that I had friends who would lend money to a stranger on my introduction, when I could not have borrowed a dollar of either without good security. But Colonel Scranton had a way that gave everybody confidence in all he said; and what was more, he always filled his contracts sooner or later.

Some think the honor of locating Scranton belonged to Mr. Henry. So far as that goes, there is no question about his making the purchase, and inducing the capital that was invested. At the same time, he was most egregiously imposed upon, or was himself mistaken in the geological formation of this country. He had, as he supposed, all the elements on the property for making iron; when the thing, as demonstrated by a series of experimental trials, turned out a dead failure.

The ore was lean, and the lime was not here; there was nothing, in fact, but coal to rely upon. When all failed, he was in bad odor with his friends, whom he had induced to embark in the business; and, of course, they lost confidence, and he was superseded by Colonel Scranton. As for Mr. Henry, the world never produced a more high-minded, honest gentleman; but he was deceived, in this valley, as I have been, along with hundreds of others.



## CHAPTER TENTH.

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### BOROUGH OF DUNMORE AND THE PENNSYLVANIA COAL COMPANY.

The First Settlers There — Effect of the Drinker Turnpike — Its Isolation from the "Hollow"—Asa Corson's Tavern — Burgess and Justice of the Peace—Early Antagonism to Corporate Industrial Projects—A Railroad Excitement of 1844—Meetings for Opposition—Nathan Smith's Quiet Purchases—The Washington Coal Company Appears—A Disappointment at "No. 6"—A Chat with the "Experts"—The Griffith Lands—John B. Smith.

THE historians of the valley generally unite in giving credit to William Allsworth as the first settler in what is now the flourishing borough of Dunmore, which must soon become a portion of the city of Scranton, in name and government, as it is already in actuality. Allsworth was joined in 1816, by his brother John, and by Philip Swartz, and soon after a few others settled in the vicinity. The construction of the Drinker Turnpike gave the place a little impetus, and a store was opened at the "Corners" about 1820. There was little change in the settle-

ment from that date until I arrived in this vicinity. On the day after I had taken up my residence in Razorville, I started on a tour of exploration, and, after visiting the Hollow, I started for Bucktown, as Dunmore was called forty years ago. I found so many roads leading from the woods on the left, that I missed the right one and came to the pond that covered the ground now partly occupied by the Court House and square, where I turned around, retraced my way, and followed a path that was through woods all the way to Bucktown, excepting at Esquire Hitchcock's farm, and through a small clearing belonging to an old gentleman who lived near the store of Johnson & Co.

The classic Bucktown I found to be made up of four corners, on one of which was a tavern, on another a store, on the third the tavern barn, while the fourth was an open field. The tavern was located on the site of the first settler's brush-roofed hut, and where O'Boyle's store now stands. This, of course, I visited. It was kept by Mr. Asa Corson, late of Providence. The bar-room contained the old-fashioned bunk, that with him answered also for a tailor's bench, on which he sat making a pair of homespun cloth pants—for he was the only tailor in this part of the country. The bar, the usual four feet square, was in the



corner, and surrounded with a fence of slats to the ceiling. It contained the usual beverage of the country, which was thrust through a hole in the fence on a small board just large enough to hold a bottle and a glass, to which the customer was invited to help himself.

I asked him if he kept a tavern, and he answered me in the affirmative, moving toward the slatted cage, as I did also. There was a tin dipper in the pail, with which customers could assuage their thirst. I "assuaged," paid my sixpence, and went on my way rejoicing. Bucktown in those days was a rallying point for the neighboring farmers, hunters, and lumbermen of the region about, and had always, in the early days, a hard name. When the operations of the Pennsylvania Coal Company commenced, a change came over the place, and an influx of a better class of inhabitants worked a vast change in the morality and business of the place in the establishment of churches and schools.

There had been a school house built within the confines of what is now the borough, in 1826, and this was occasionally used for church purposes. During the activities, which the next few years brought about, a very considerable change was worked on this primitive settlement. In

1848, a post office was erected there, with G. P. Howell as the first postmaster. He soon resigned in favor of Daniel Swartz, who in turn was succeeded by Francis Quick, N. Sommers, George Black, S. W. Ward, N. Sommers, D. H. Himrod.

As the founders of Scranton at the very outset of their enterprise, and at a time when they were straining every nerve to overcome obstacles that would have thwarted men of less indomitable perseverance and inflexible purpose, were discouraged by sneers, skepticism and distrust, so everything looking to the material advancement of the valley had to meet, and overcome some very decided antagonisms. This was particularly true of such ventures as were essayed by corporations, of which the less well-informed, who were, unfortunately, in the majority, had a peculiar mistrust. This weakness on the part of the voting majority was taken advantage of then, as it frequently has been since, by politicians who had their own ends to subserve. The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company was one of the first to encounter it, and the strenuous resistance that was attempted against its construction is a matter of history well perpetuated in the pamphlets and diatribes that were launched against it in the earlier days, when it began to open up the valley. The cry of "Monopoly" was a red flag to the bull

of public opinion and ignorant prejudice, and "Corporation" was only one degree removed. The possibilities that half a century has made trite realities were not dreamed of, save by a few, and there was a jealous antagonism toward all things that had not their origin in individual enterprise. Having briefly given elsewhere in these papers some of the history of this locality as I found it in 1840, I will proceed in my own way to follow up the various events of any importance from then to the present, dealing particularly with those which soon changed the monotony of a quiet, fairly moral town, not unlike many that surrounded it, into a hurly-burly business mart.

The winter of 1844 commenced a very exciting controversy about an innovation of the Valley by the Erie railroad or some other improvement which was actively opposed by some, and especially by my friend and companion, Charles H. Silkman and his cohorts, who in those days were all-powerful. At his instance meetings were held in Hyde Park, Providence and Blakely. These meetings were attended very faithfully and, as a matter of course, Silkman was always victorious when it came to a vote on any resolution concerning the project for the Delaware and Hudson, or any other improvement coming here. In face of this came the projected division of the North Branch Canal

that was to be carried up the Lackawanna by a system of dams and slack-water navigation. It was to open every man's coal and carry it to market without cost, and bring to every man a fortune at public expense without even the trouble of mining.

After several months, the excitement all died away, and for the time I was the only advocate of the railroad. It was about this time that a vigorous old gentleman, Mr. Nathan Smith, a relative of the family of Wurts, appeared in Providence; and, before any one was aware of his intention, had purchased quite a number of farms above Dunmore. Before he had concluded his purchases, and while in Blakely, he was taken ill, and died. His remains now lie in the quiet repose for the dead near the Baptist Church in that town. For a year after his decease but little was heard of his objects in purchasing these lands, but when the other payments were due they were all met by the Wurts' interest, and it was found afterward that he acted only as their agent. For a time nothing occurred to inform the inhabitants what was in store for them, when rumors came that Mr. Archbald and a party of engineers were running lines over the mountains from Dunmore to the Lackawanna. The work occupied nearly a year. It was thought, as a matter of course, that he, being an officer and

manager of the interests of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, it was their project; but after a time it came out that a new company had been formed under a charter called the "Washington Coal Company" that was subsequently changed to the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and it was a kind of mutual company. He first arranged with the Delaware and Hudson Company to afford tonnage through their canal leading from Honesdale to the Hudson river at Roundout, and a bargain was made, and each company thought they understood themselves; and some years after the completion of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's road to Hawley, a town on the banks of the Lackawaxen, thirty-five miles from Dunmore, named after Gideon Hawley, its president, the agreement was carried out.

The Pennsylvania Coal Company had, as a corporation, purchased of the Wurts the lands obtained by Smith as a nucleus and another tract where now an important part of the city is located, and called "No. 6"—where the machine shops of the company were subsequently located and where, at the time of the purchase, they expected to supply their road with all the coal it could carry. Mr. Archbald, and his chief assistant in all these projects, Mr. Clarkson, opened the mines in that vicinity, and at the same time commenced a shaft some half

mile north of the Dupuy farm. After going down about one hundred and fifty feet they abandoned it, as, reaching no coal, they thought they had struck a fault in the strata. This was a great disappointment to the company. At that time one hundred and fifty feet for a shaft was a great thing, and discouraging in the extreme, for these experts were supposed to be the only ones in the country that knew all about coal, and not finding it as they expected, they abandoned it partially, and sought other sources for a supply. The few openings about No. 6, under any circumstances, could not yield for any length of time, what their facilities would transport.

Then of course these experts were casting about for more coal lands, and for days might be seen up and down the Lackawanna Valley, with their little hammers in hand, pecking all the rocks on the west side of the Lackawanna for a coal seam, but none could be found. I met these gentlemen one early morn in the ravine near the Mount Pleasant colliery in Hyde Park, where a seam of coal was cut through by the rivulet, and ventured to ask the object of their search. They answered with all the gravity their natures and habits of truth would allow: "We are searching to find where this coal belongs. It is out of place. Some convulsion or upheaval has disturbed its natural



position. It belongs to the other side of the valley."

"But, sir, don't you suppose all those lands are coal-bearing lands?"

"Oh, no, not by any means! We have been here often seeking to find where it belongs. It is very curious. In fact, we do not suppose that this seam extends over two or three acres at most. There is no coal this side of the valley that belongs here."

Such were the prophecies of that day!

The entire failure of finding any other coal in Providence, except at No. 6, and the failure at the one hundred and fifty feet shaft at Dunmore was a damper on the Pennsylvania Coal Company. The road had been built and was ready. What next was to be done.

About this time Mr. William R. Griffith, of Philadelphia, came to these parts and offered the company lands below Pittston, at Port Griffith, that he had purchased for some purpose, and he, at the same time offered to join the company and become a stockholder. It required only about twenty miles more of road to bring this coal to Dunmore, and this was built, and the stability of the company was maintained, and the extension has ever since contributed to its success. At the

close of this brief outline of the history of the Pennsylvania Company from the beginning to its consummation and final success, it is proper to refer to its faithful and efficient manager, Mr. John B. Smith, of whom too much cannot be said for his faithfulness to his employes, his honesty of purpose, and the confidence reposed in him by his thousands of employes. These things speak more for him as a man than all the encomiums with which I can load him down.



## CHAPTER ELEVENTH.

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### LACKAWANNA COUNTY'S INCEPTION.

The First Agitation—Condition of the Upper Townships—Selfish Antagonism — The Project of '43 — Merrifield Starts the Ball — Mr. Dunning's Experiences—Some Premature Rejoicing—The Constitutional Convention — A Son Takes up His Father's Work — The "Sinews of War" — A Spirited Canvass and Victory — A Speech of Rejoicing — The Location of the Court House — Laying of the Corner Stone — The Story of a Memorable Banquet.

THE story of the early efforts to secure a division of Luzerne County, and erect what has since become proud Lackawanna, with Scranton as its county seat, is one that dates back more than half a century, and is replete with interest, because it involves some bits of history concerning almost every man who was alive to the situation, when the possible development of this valley began to be seriously discussed. Several of those who were most active have lived to see the fruition of their labors, which ofttime seemed Sisiphean, and can recall with the utmost satisfaction the determined fight which they had to make against most adverse conditions.

Three years before I came into the valley, the question of a division had begun to be agitated, and a sentiment was beginning to crystalize in what afterwards proved a sea of dissension for more than forty years. It generated two distinctive parties, which were constituted without regard to political affiliation, and Proteous-like, appeared in all the guises of opposition and obstruction that the selfish politicians of Wilkes-Barre could devise. The upper townships were almost a unit as to the propriety of separation. The only communication with the county seat was by the tri-weekly stage, the tedious wagon, or over the rough road on foot, and the dockets of the Courts were overburdened, so that even after an uncomfortable journey, litigants were uncertain of a hearing, and, after remaining frequently a week at a time, at a very considerable expense, came back rueful at postponement. In many cases where pecuniary redress was sought in a really meritorious case, and where, after interminable delay, a verdict was at last obtained, more than the amount of the judgment had been expended in the unnecessary expenses incident to attendance on the temple of the wool-sack. This state of things was demoralizing in many ways. It made the dishonest debtor more insolent to his creditor, for law in the Upper Courts was, per force, a last resort. The inconvenience of consulting the records led men to fre-

quently ignore this precaution in business transactions, and there are not a few cases within the scope of my own observation where such oversight led to most costly litigation in subsequent years. There was then comparatively little political corruption, so far as falsifying returns was concerned ; but, if the modern ballot-box stuffer had been developed, he could have asked no better opportunity to carry out his schemes than in the solitudes through which he drove a wagon load of recorded sufferages to the county seat. Beside all these considerations, it was felt that the large and rapidly populating area above the bridge at Pittston was entitled to a new county on general principles, and there was no measure so fixed and popular as this.

The disadvantages which made the project meritorious to the residents of the upper townships were special advantages to Wilkes-Barre, and none were more zealous in guarding them than were the people of that ancient city. Their antagonism was not without its fruits, either. Any project which looked to the development of the upper part of the county ; any public measure calculated to increase its power and influence, became the target for jealous opposition, and though, at times, when there was a point to be gained by apparently generous support, there was too often an undertow

of determined contravention that thoroughly neutralized all the smiling acquiescence on the surface. Sometimes, as was the case in the feeder dam project, one of the representatives would rise superior to this petty jealousy, see the general good that was to follow the adoption of some measure which had originated in this section, and in a straightforward, statesman-like manner, do all in his power to aid it. But he stood alone, if there was a remote possibility that it would reduce by a fraction the tithe paid by the upper townships of this valley in particular to Wilkes-Barre. While Hon. George M. Hollenback was putting forth his energies to have the Legislature appropriate the one hundred thousand dollars necessary to give us slack water navigation on the Lackawanna, a strong lobby from his own home was pulling the wires at the state capital, and did succeed in neutralizing his efforts. Much the same spirit was shown after the iron works were put in operation at the Hollow. Whenever any legislation was required to aid the Scrantons in their early struggles, the same policy of obstruction was pursued, and it was only by superior genius for organization and wiser tactics that our companies were formed and our main railroad lines were built.

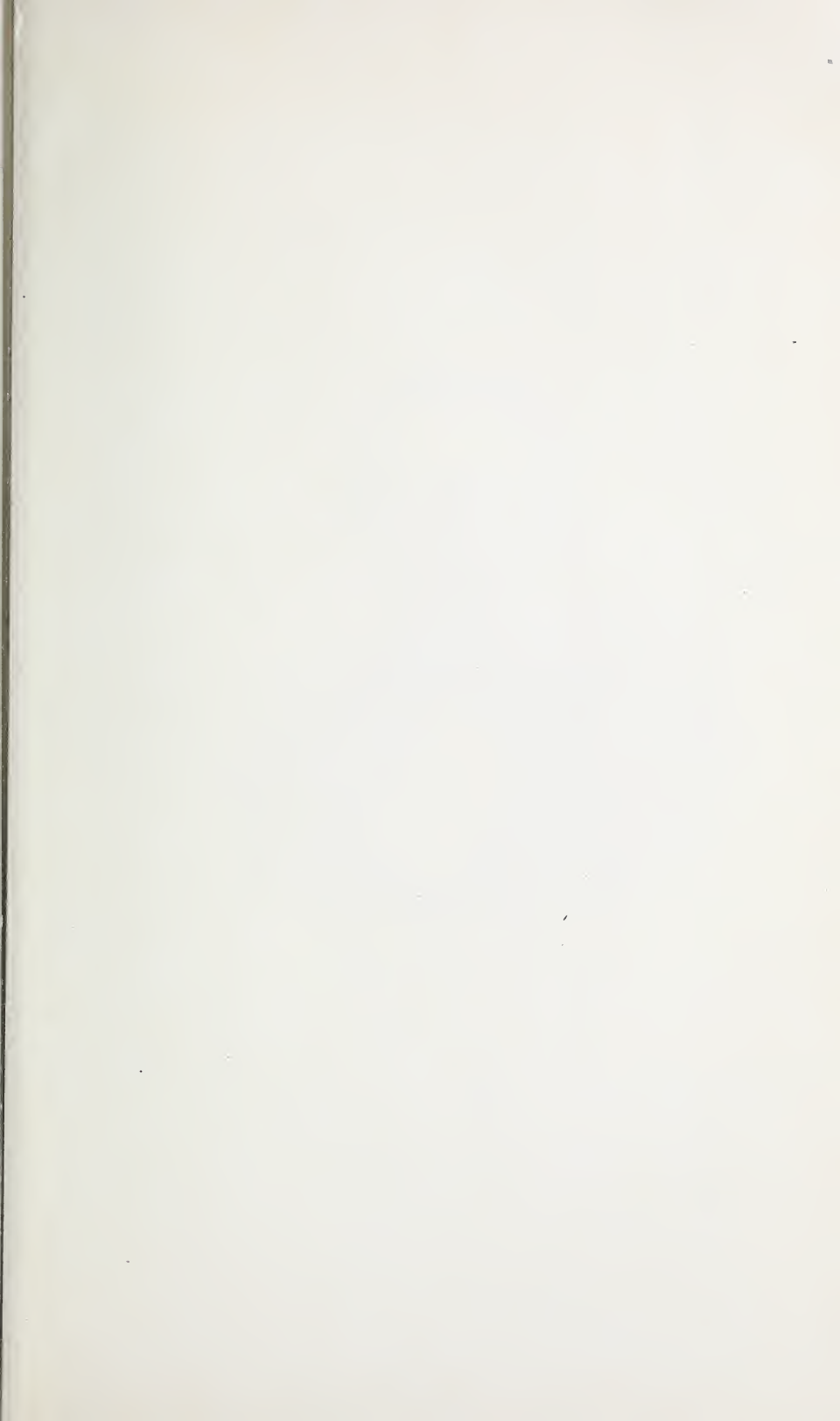


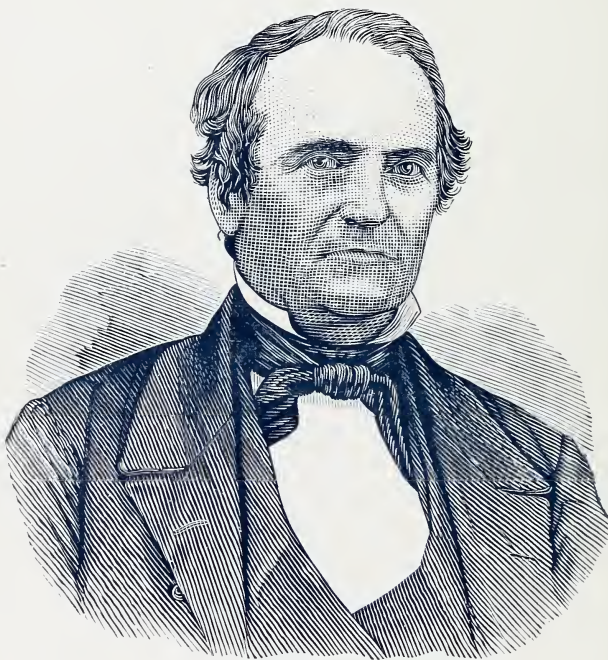
During all these early struggles, Wilkes-Barre had the advantage. The Lackawanna Valley was poor, and had its fortune still to make; Wilkes-Barre had inherited considerable wealth from its former generations. The public-spirited men here were, most of them, new-comers and unknown. Those of the opposition had prestige and influence. But these differences were equalized by a square-chinned persistency and enthusiastic pertinacity that was bound to win in the long run, because no defeat discouraged or disheartened more than temporarily, and every man hung on, kept alive the idea of ultimate success, and confidently bided his time until the sinews and modes of war should be equal to the emergency.

The first member of the House of Representatives to occupy that position from the Lackawanna district, was Joseph Griffin, of Providence Township, who was elected in 1839. During his incumbency, the people in the northeastern portion of the county began to feel hopeful of realizing some relief from the existing conditions, and were sanguine that a bill would be passed. It was not, however; though the efforts made in that direction were sufficient to cause the subject to become from that time a subject of more animated discussion and division in local politics. The evident anxiety of the people in the Wyoming Valley, particularly

to retain this portion of their territory, and the fact that there seemed to be a lack of leaders, or of generalship capable of coping with the opposition, had a discouraging effect; and, when, in 1842, the people of Luzerne consented to the erection of Wyoming County—the third which had been carved out of their original territory—it seemed as though a death blow had been given the measure. While there was some agitation among a few, it did not arouse much enthusiasm, and the lethargy of the conquered prevailed sufficiently to prevent any definite accomplishment. Meanwhile, however, new blood was coming into the valley, and amongst the arrivals were some who were ambitious to take a hand in public affairs. This question presented a tangible opportunity, and as they began to become more widely known they bent their energies toward it.

It was six years after the new county project began to be first talked of that the first determined effort was made to give it tangible shape and form. The leading spirits of this section thought that the time was ripe to make the attempt, and to the village of Providence belongs the credit of formulating the plans and preparing the campaign more than to any other portion of the territory. Nor did defeat diminish its steady efforts. It kept alive the spirit of the contest from the date of its incep-





HON. WILLIAM MERRIFIELD.

tion until its local identity was merged into the City of Scranton, and even then did not give up the agitation. I have already referred to the village as the Mecca of the valley politician in those days, and to Nathaniel Cottrell's tavern as the mosque in which prayers were daily offered and libations poured for the prosperity of the section. It was then that we used to come together before election and arrange the plan of the campaign, and, there, too, a mutual understanding was had, and each one was assigned his part in the work in hand.

There it was that we determined to test our strength, and later, when the first defeat had crowned our efforts, resolved, like The Old Guard, that we "might die, but surrender—never!" In 1843, Hon. William Merrifield\* was elected to Leg-

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\* The Hon. William Merrifield, who was prominently connected with the early development of Lackawanna County, was born in Pine Plains, Dutchess County, New York, April 22d, 1806. His paternal ancestors had come from England in the early part of the Eighteenth Century, and located in Rhode Island, from which point the next generation had sought the fertile lands of New York State. Robert, the father of William, the subject of this sketch, emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1819, and settled in the then Township of Providence, subsequently Hyde Park. Here he engaged in clearing away the forest, and farming, and was assisted by his son William, whose axe helped fell the gigantic trees that once towered where hundreds of human habitations now stand. William Merrifield received his early education in the public schools, but he so far supplemented this that for five years of his early manhood he was engaged in school teaching, during

islature, and the efforts put forth in his behalf during the campaign were the more vigorous because he was pledged to us as so strong a new

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which time he married Almira, the sister of the late William Sweatland, and, soon afterward, engaged in the mercantile business at Center Moreland, Luzerne County. He had been instrumental in getting a post office located at Hyde Park, to which place he returned, after a brief interval, and was appointed the first postmaster there in 1831, which office he held for about ten years, and afterward followed the business of merchandising almost uninterruptedly until 1864. He early foresaw the advantages of this section as a mining and manufacturing center, and, in 1837, became joint owner in the lands where the central portion of the city now stands, which were subsequently sold to Col. George W. Scranton and others. In 1843 he was elected to the Legislature, and for three terms labored zealously in behalf of the Lackawanna Valley. His struggles in its interest, as revealed by the legislative records, show him to have been one of the ablest champions ever sent from this section. He was an enthusiastic friend and supporter of the public schools, and a large contributor toward the erection of churches. He was one of the first school directors, and was ardent and public-spirited in all matters. He gave an early impetus to the growth and development of the city by laying out that portion of the city known as "Merrifield's Addition" in Keyser Valley, as well as other portions of Scranton.

In 1856 he was elected Associate Judge, serving at the time that the late Judge Conyngham presided, and his general knowledge, as well as a keen perception of the common-sense side of the law made him a most acceptable adjudicator in many important matters. Aside from the financial ability which made him comfortable in his declining years, he was a ripe scholar in all that pertains to an English education. He was a profound historian, well versed in science and general literature, and was so diligent a reader, even after having passed his three score and ten years, that it is believed to have been the predisposing cause of his death, which took place in June, 1877, after an illness of little more than two months. There were few men who died more truly regretted by all who knew him. His chief characteristics were those of honesty, integrity and a conscientious discharge of all duties intrusted to him. As the banker, the public man, the judge, or in private life, his manly virtues and kindness of heart are long to be remembered.



county man. No representative ever redeemed a pledge by more earnest effort than did he. He at once introduced the bill, which had been drafted with much care, embodying what were conceded to be the most advantageous provisions, and, in spite of the most strenuous opposition of the shrewd and able politicians of old Luzerne, headed by William S. Ross, Senator from the district, and backed by ample means from Wilkes-Barre, succeeded in passing it through the House, during the session of 1844. That it failed by a tie vote in the Senate, however, only temporarily dampened our ardor.

A press and type were purchased in Carbondale, and the friends of the new county established the *Providence Mirror and Lackawannian*, of which Frank B. Woodward was the editor, although a number of Silkman's law students, David Randall, John Rankin and E. S. M. Hill, the latter the first Mayor of Scranton borough, were contributors, and made it a very breezy sheet for those days. In addition to the division of the county, the paper was also zealous in aiding the Erie railroad to come up the Lackawaxen, through Hawley and Cobb's Gap, Leggett's Gap, and follow the line now used by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western to Great Bend, and in attempting to defeat the Delaware and Hudson Company from extending

its road down to what is now Archbald. During the winter of 1845-6 there were meetings held at various places through this and adjacent townships, and at these Silkman was always present and succeeded in working up the valley into an excitement, the like of which has not been since known, except when the Enabling Act finally passed. During the remainder of Mr. Merrifield's three terms, it was not practicable to get the bill through, although it was regularly introduced, and several times was defeated only by a vote or two in an effort to get it from the hands of the committee.

In 1852 the new county was again made an issue, and Hon. A. B. Dunning was elected. He had been an enthusiastic supporter of the measure from the first, and conducted a magnificent campaign in its behalf for three sessions. Hon. Charles R. Buckalew, who had succeeded Mr. Ross as Senator from the district, was most bitterly opposed to the bill, and was so prominent and influential that he succeeded in defeating it each time, though by only the barest majority; and this obtained by the use of money which the myrmidons of Wilkes-Barre were plentifully supplied with, and placed where it would do the most good.

"During the first session," said Mr. Dunning, in a recent conversation, "I passed the bill in the House with a vote of perhaps fifteen against it. When it went to the Senate, one member who was pledged to me, was bought over by the opposition, and we lost by just that vote the chance of having a tie, when we would have gained the day. Had that been the case, Providence would have been the county seat. At the second term it passed easily early in the session, though I don't think that we should have carried the day then except for one little incident. Among the representatives there was one very clever old gentleman named Hart who was in favor of all the legislation the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western desired, having been elected through the influence of those who were interested in that project. When the bill came up, I asked him whether I could depend upon him, and was surprised to receive an answer in the negative. 'Here,' I said, 'you are on the ragged edge with the railroad bill, and I'll turn a dozen men against it if you don't help me.' I, of course, didn't intend to do it, but he thought so, and I had him. He looked sulky for a minute, and then said: 'Well, Dunning, I don't like to give in, and I won't; but I guess I'll have to compromise and vote as Papa Atherton does.' As Mr. Atherton, my colleague, was at the head of the roll call, and

though from the other part of the county, in favor of the bill, I had Hart. There were several similar instances, as it was supposed that Atherton was opposed to the measure.

“The hardest fight was made during my third term. The bill had, as heretofore, passed the House early in the session, and we thought that by the middle of the term it would go through the Senate without much difficulty. Gid. Palmer had been trying in every way to be elected to some office, but his own representatives would not support him for some reason, and he turned a new county man for revenge. Although they had money to spend for the opposition, I thought that we could meet them on that ground, as it did not take much. Senator Buckalew had pledged on re-election to support the bill, and was supposed to be controlled by Hal Wright and Nicholson. Toward the middle of the session we made great effort to get the bill out of the hands of the committee, and before the Senate, but without avail. Some of the Senators would not vote with us without money, and we had not a sufficient supply of that. It came calendar day near the close of the session and the situation was desperate, and our forces were rallied. A strong contingent came down from the upper end of the county and did noble work. When the night session came we had

just votes enough—if our information was correct. I told the delegation that it was better to be on the safe side and that five hundred dollars would get another vote, perhaps two; but they were over sanguine, and thought this unnecessary.

“I went to Piatt—he was an ardent friend—and asked him if he thought we were all right. He replied that he had thought so until that afternoon, but that he had discovered that a man we were counting on—one from McClure’s district, had gone back on us. I saw McClure after the session and told him that his man was going to sell out. He said he would look up the matter and see that it was all right, but failed to see him until after the vote in the Senate, at which he popped up and voted against us, killing the bill by one vote.

“We left the State House decidedly chagrined. You were one of them, Doctor, and recollect your feelings; and, as you remember, we went to my room. There some of the disconsolate younger members of the party started up a game of penny ante to distract them from the bitter disappointment, and the others sat around and smoked in gloomy silence. I stretched out on the bed, and began to think over the situation, and see if it were possible to do anything under the circumstances. All at once an idea came to me like a flash, and brought me to my feet. I knew that it was within the provisions of the Constitution, if it

were practicable, and as the morrow would be the the last legislative day of the session, there was no time to be lost in making the attempt.

“‘Business,’ I said, as I swept the table clear of cards and counters, to the astonishment of the players. ‘The new county bill will pass the House to-morrow, and the Senate on adjournment.’

“‘You fool,’ said some one, ‘don’t you know that you can’t call up the same bill twice in the same legislative year?’

“I explained in a few words how a change in the title, and some differences in the text would make a new bill and accomplish the same object, and having roughly drafted out the necessary changes, left the party to perfect the copy, and left with the injunction, ‘I’m going to see Peter Strong, and don’t you break up until I get back!’

“I went to the Jones House, roused up Strong, told him my scheme, and said, ‘all that remains is for you to get the transcribing done on time. It is a long bill, but there is a drove of transcribing clerks, and for a little money which I have in my hand, they will take off their coats and hustle through.’

“He promised to attend to that part, and I posted off to old Judge Thompson, and got him out of bed. I had stood with him in the Erie fight, and knew that I could count on him; because, had it



not been for me, he would not have gotten his bill through. I told him that I wanted his moral aid to get the floor, and he promised it most cordially, as I was confident he would. I saw several others, and made full arrangements. Early in the morning we commenced on the Senators we needed. Buckalew could not be found. He did not get in until the next evening. One or two men were secured, and a little more money would have obtained others. This was suggested to the lobby, but for some reason it was not attended to in time. McClure went to his Senator, told him the situation, and added, 'you must vote for this bill.'

"'I can't do it. I have taken the money of the opposition,' was the reply.

"'Then give it back.'

"'I can't do that, I've used it.'

"'You'll be d——n sick then, for you must not vote against it,' was the laconic reply. He was bundled up to his room forthwith, and was too ill to leave it until after the final vote was taken.

"I got the floor in the House as had been promised, and when I had made my statement I was greeted with applause on every side. A motion was made to put the bill at once on passage in manuscript by its title, and one of my special friends, in seconding this, gave warning if it did not pass, he would call for the ayes and nays, and obstruct all other business until it was satisfac-

torily disposed of. This had the desired effect, and it was passed by acclamation. The chief transcriber was promptly on hand with his force, and the copy went to the Senate before twelve o'clock. Of course it took everybody by complete surprise, and fairly made the opposition's teeth chatter. They hustled about and got their forces out of the cloak rooms, before it came to a vote, however, and it was lost on a tie vote."

As this graphic story of one of the most notable struggles in the new county fight fell from the lips of its central figure, it brought back many vivid memories, and not a few of them are without their decidedly humorous side. I was at Harrisburg much of the time when the new county bill was pending during the sessions that Mr. Dunning attended, and, like all the rest of the Scrantonians, was deeply interested in every move made on the political checker-board. I remember that during the second year, when the bill had passed the House so easily, the middle of the session had been reached, and we were given to understand that a sufficient number of votes had been secured in the Senate to make us absolutely sure, I invited all of the new county contingent to a banquet in honor of our victory. There were Brisbin, Griffin, Tripp, Randall, Rankin, Hill, Merrifield, our representatives, the newspaper men, and a number of

others, and corks popped, congratulatory speeches were made, and general joy reigned supreme to the amount of some three hundred dollars. The next morning we found that our rejoicing had been a trifle premature. A careful census of the votes disclosed the fact that we were still in the minority, and that more "sinews of war" must be forthcoming, if we would not acknowledge ourselves vanquished. These were made up in part ; but still the desired result was not obtained. There was one Senator who could not be convinced of the justness of our cause, and hence he hesitated. One of the workers was dispatched to him to know what was necessary to enable him to see matters in a clearer light. He was met with an explosion of virtuous wrath at the suggestion of a monetary consideration, and retired much discomfited. An hour or two later, information reached me through another channel, though directly from our virtuous friend, that if a couple of lots in the heart of the business portion of the city were presented to him, he might be induced to reopen the case for further consideration in his own mind. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that he got the lots—in his own mind.

The defeat just described had a decidedly dampening effect on the ardor of the new county advocates. The *Mirror and Lackawannian* became

silent, and was soon moved to Virginia, where its editor afterward died of consumption. The meetings ceased and the fluent invective of Silkman was invoked on other themes. Still another blow, intended to be final and decisive, was directed at the Lackawanna County project through the influence of Buckalew and his followers. This was the amendment to the Constitution passed in 1857, which prohibited the erection of new counties without first submitting the question to the vote of the entire county. It was taken for granted that there would never be a time when a majority of all the people in Luzerne would vote for such a radical dismemberment as the amputation of the proposed new county would be. This was so far true, that there was no farther concerted action taken among the new countyites for half a decade. Then the agitation was recommenced, and in 1866, Jacob Robinson and Peter Walsh, then representatives, secured the passage of a bill submitting to the voters of Luzerne County the question of the creation of a new county to be known as Lackawanna. The campaign which ensued was a warm one, but after the election it was found that the proposition had been defeated by some three thousand votes. Again, a half decade intervened before the question was again stirred up. This was in 1870, when a bill was again introduced, and met the fate of most of those which had preceded it, and



HON. LEWIS PUGHE.





a similar one was accorded to some measure of the same character at every session up to the time when victory finally came. The campaign which led to it dawned with the Constitutional Convention of 1873, when Hon. Lewis Pughe\* and Hon.

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\* Hon. Lewis Pughe was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, March 5th, 1820, and was therefore in his 72d year. When eight years old he went with his parents to Liverpool, England, where he remained fourteen years. Here, in the great hustling mercantile and shipping metropolis, the keen, observing youth received impressions that were both vivid and lasting—impressions which frequently formed the subjects of intelligent comment and criticism in riper years and in the light of mature judgment. In accordance with the wholesome Old Country idea that every lad must learn a trade, he was apprenticed to the tailoring business, at which he served seven years, devoting himself faithfully to the exacting duties devolving upon him, at an age when other boys, of inferior mental equipment, were at school storing their minds with knowledge for life's battle. Many a life of brilliant promise has been marred by the old-fashioned apprentice system which demanded the golden years of youth, but not so that of Mr. Pughe. He accepted the calling selected for him by his parents, as a dutiful son should, and in later years devoted himself to his trade until such time as he could equip himself for other duties, more to his liking, in the world's great college.

And so, in the year 1842, he came to the United States and worked at his trade in New York. Since then his career has been upward and onward. On the 23rd of January, 1845, he was married to Miss Mary Mason, of Clifford Township, Susquehanna County, an estimable lady who died in Scranton July 13, 1880. Two daughters, who still survive, were the result of this union, namely Mrs. L. P. Cushing, and Mrs. Penman, the wife of T. F. Penman, Esq. The year after his marriage Mr. Pughe moved to Carbondale where he carried on a successful merchant tailoring business. In the year 1850, under the city charter, he was elected the first Treasurer, afterwards Alderman of the Third Ward for five years and School Director for nine years. In the year 1866 Mr. Pughe associated with Edward Jones, Esq., under the firm name of Jones & Co., leased coal lands from William Hull, of Blakely, and founded what is now known as the Borough of Olyphant. In 1868 the company sold out to the Dela-

A. B. Dunning, who were the members from this section, worked untireingly in its behalf, and by their zeal and earnestness created a sentiment

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ware and Hudson Company, and in October of the same year Mr. Pughe became associated with the late Colonel William N. Monies in the baking business. The firm did an extensive business under the name of Monies & Pughe and became widely known throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Although Mr. Pughe had been identified with local politics in a modest way prior to that time, his first important office was assumed in 1858, when he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature from Luzerne County on the Republican ticket. The County of Luzerne had at that time an old-fashioned Democratic majority of 2,500 votes, and it was no small tribute to Mr. Pughe's worth that he was chosen, despite the fact that he was a candidate of the minority. It is also worthy of note that he was the first citizen of foreign birth ever elected to represent old Luzerne in the General Assembly. He was re-elected in 1860 and served with honor to himself and his constituents.

When Mr. Pughe moved to Scranton in 1869, he at once became active in forwarding the growth of the city. His worth was speedily appreciated by the prominent men of that period, and he was elected a member of the Fourth School District. He served as Treasurer of the district for one year, and when the several school districts of Scranton were consolidated, he was elected to represent the Sixteenth Ward on the Board. But it was as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1873 that Mr. Pughe accomplished his greatest public work, and commended himself in a special manner to the people of Lackawanna County. To his personal efforts and his splendid speech in advocacy of the section of the Constitution on new counties, is due the fact that the people of Lackawanna to-day enjoy an independent county government of their own. The wily Representatives from Luzerne were alert even in that day to thwart the cherished ambition of the people of this section, but their intrigues were thwarted by the masterly work of Mr. Pughe, who won praise from all sides for his admirable presentation of the new county subject from the standpoint of common sense and common honesty. To the adoption of that Constitutional section, so ably championed by him, is due the fact that Lackawanna is a separate county to-day, and his services deserve to be held in grateful remembrance by those of a later era, who know how fiercely the creation of

throughout the state that finally had much to do with the passage of the enabling act. The new Constitution had provided that there should be no

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this county was fought. even after the Constitutional battle had been won, and the Legislative struggle was on.

In the year 1876 Mr. Pughe was elected one of the Republican Presidential electors from Pennsylvania for Rutherford B. Hayes, and a like honor was conferred upon him by his party in 1888, when he was chosen Elector-at-Large, with Hon. Thomas Dolan, for the State on the ticket that elected General Harrison President.

He organized the Scranton Board of Trade in 1867, with M. H. Dale, Colonel Monies, General Phinney and D. B. Oakes, and was President of the Board for four years. Mr. Pughe was President of the First Lay Delegate Convention of the Wyoming M. E. Conference held in Owego, Bishop Simpson presiding.

In May, 1877, he was appointed by Judge Harding, Director of the Poor for the Scranton District to succeed A. H. Winton, Esq. Mr. Pughe entered upon the duties of his appointment with great energy and earnestness and infused new life into an organization that had grown moribund and negligent in caring for the insane and indigent. He instituted wholesome reforms, among them the separation of the sexes, championed necessary improvements, including the building of a hospital for the insane, changed the name of the institution from the Providence Poor Farm to Hillside Home, and succeeded in having regular religious services there on Sunday for the Catholic and Protestant inmates. From the harsh, unkindly, forbidding and altogether fearful place it was, when he became a member of the Board, he succeeded in transforming it into a veritable home and a shelter worthy of a civilized community. He found the place a disgrace; He left it a paradise for the poor, who, through an adverse fate, are compelled to seek shelter within its walls. Mr. Pughe served as Poor Director four terms of three years each, and has recently been President of the Board.

In the year 1889 Mr. Pughe was appointed by Governor Beaver a member of a Commission of seven to revise the Poor Laws of Pennsylvania, and was made Chairman of the Commission. The result of his work is shown in the elaborate report on the subject presented to the Executive. He was President of the Pittston Stove Company during the past ten years and has been engaged in numerous other enterprises. In all his relations he has been actuated by the highest

special legislation, and therefore any act that permitted the dismemberment of one county, must apply to all. This, in spite of the spirited fight

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and most honorable motives, and his useful, fruitful, upright life is his best monument.

His love for literature was as keen as his regret that his own early opportunities were too circumscribed to permit him to avail himself of a liberal scholarship. He learned much in the world, however, by his attrition with men and books and his enjoyment of the best prose and poetry was genuine and hearty. His original powers of observation were strong, and when at his prime could put his thoughts into vigorous English. He lectured with success on various subjects before friendly societies on several occasions and was a fluent and forceful talker. His remarks were always delivered with dignity and ease, implying a confidence that he did not really possess, for he was in truth one of the most bashful and diffident of men before the public. He frequently regretted this diffidence in conversation with his close personal friends, and said he thought he might have made more of his opportunities were he less bashful and more forward on occasions. But although he may not have taken all the prizes due to his merits, his life has not been lived in vain. He believed in doing well whatever he undertook, in accordance with the maxim:

“Honor and fame from no condition rise,  
Act well your part, there all the honor lies.”

His personal friends were many and included some of the most distinguished men in public and private life. One of his friendships in particular deserves to be mentioned here—namely that of Sir John Henry Puleston, at present a prominent London banker and member of Parliament. Mr. Pughe met Puleston when the latter was editing the *Pittston Gazette* on a pittance. He befriended him, made him acquainted with Governor Curtin, and set his feet on the path that led to his present golden goal. Nothing pleased Mr. Pughe better than to see young men succeed in this world, and in this way his friendship was often most valuable. He was a man of large heart, general impulse, broad, liberal views, wide information and a lofty sense of charity, justice and fair play. He loved his adopted country as dearly as any man ever born on American soil, and in every walk in life he did his duty. He will be missed and mourned by thousands throughout the valley, and beyond its limits, who knew and appreciated his sterling worth.—HON. JOHN E. BARRETT in *The Scranton Truth*.

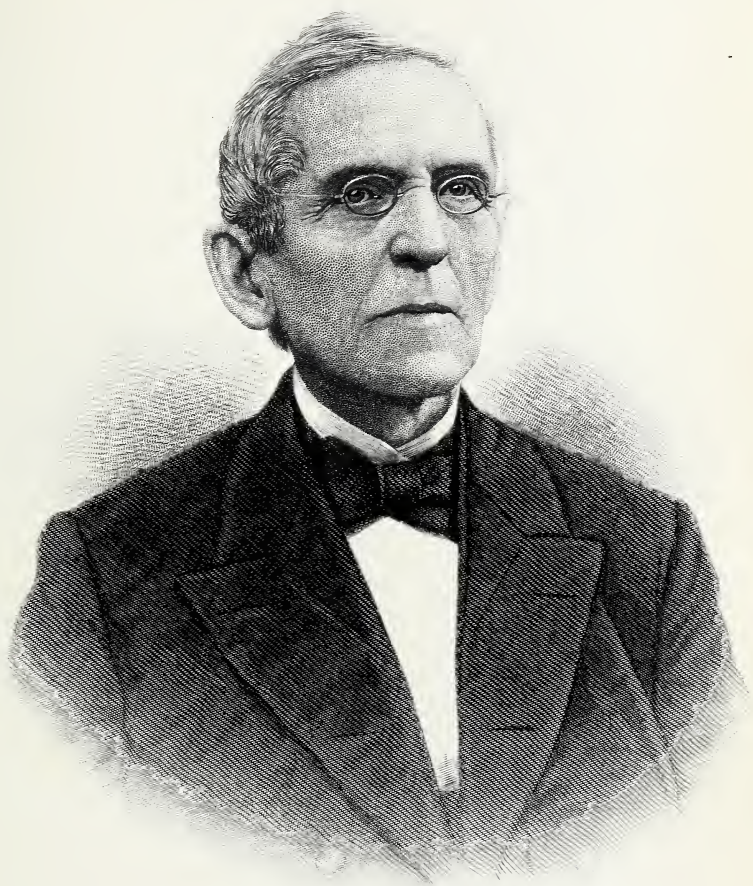
made for three sessions, stirred up the bitterest antagonism of counties in all parts of the State, and made it impossible to accomplish anything. The bar of the city became deeply interested in the matter, and several meetings were held to consider as to whether there could be framed such a measure as would not excite such bitter opposition. Hon. Edward Merrifield was appointed a special committee to draft a suitable bill, and it was placed in the hands of James O. Kierstead, who with D. M. Jones represented the city of Scranton in the Legislature. It became a law on the 17th day of April, 1878, and on the 13th of August following Lackawanna County was ushered into being by a majority of 7629 votes cast in its favor. There was something peculiarly appropriate in the fact that a son should thus complete the work that his father had begun nearly half a century before. Hon. William Merrifield was one of the first to give the new county vigor and animation in the Legislative Halls. It was the skillful measure drafted by Edward Merrifield, his son, that was able to pass through the rocky and torturous channels at Harrisburg, without being wrecked as so many had been before it. But as the grand result showed at the ballot, no ship, however seaworthy, can escape the Scylla of greed and the Charybdis of antagonism without plenty supplies, and a constant, well-directed breeze behind her.



There were many others who share in the proud achievement, most of whom are mentioned in the following extract from the history of the county which was placed in the corner stone of the Court House :

“The fight for the passage of the bill was interesting and exciting, with Mr. Kierstead was D. M. Jones, his colleague, who were ably assisted by A. I. Ackerly and John B. Smith, representing other sections of Luzerne, and George B. Seamans, Senator from the district. Among those who devoted a large portion of their time at Harrisburg in behalf of the project were E. N. Willard, R. H. McCune, F. W. Gunster, F. L. Hitchcock, J. E. Barrett and E. Merrifield, aided from time to time by B. H. Throop, George Sanderson, A. H. Winton, Lewis Pughe, H. S. Pierce, J. A. Scranton, U. G. Schoonmaker, Corydon H. Wells and John H. Powell. *The Scranton Republican*, very able in advocacy, was for weeks placed upon the desks of the members, and had much to do in creating a favorable sentiment. After the contest had progressed for quite a length of time, with varying prospects, but without substantial progress, a meeting was held in the city of Scranton, which was the pivotal point, and the result of which finally led to triumph. The soldiers on the battle ground had been continually hampered for





*Geo. Sanborn*



want of necessary means. Aside from the liberal action taken by the Scranton Board of Trade, the subscriptions had been comparatively small, and now had come a time when princely contributions were necessary. It must either be a plethoric treasury or a graceful retirement from the field. The major part of the opulent citizens of Scranton were singularly apathetic and indifferent to the necessities of the case. At this juncture, Edward N. Willard, Aretus H. Winton, and myself were so fortunate as to call in council Benjamin H. Throop, George Sanderson\* W. W. Winton and

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\*Hon. George Sanderson was born in Boston, of Puritan stock, February 25th, 1810, and received his education at the Boston Latin School. Shortly after leaving this institution, he went to New York, where, for a while, he was in the employment of a relative in commercial pursuits. From there his fortunes led him to Geneva, New York, where he married Miss Marion Kingsbury, the daughter of Col. Joseph Kingsbury, of Sheshequin, Bradford County, Pa. Col. Kingsbury was a large landed proprietor, and the active general agent of other large owners. The homestead, and part of the original estate is now owned by his youngest son. This marriage led Mr. Sanderson to Towanda, the county seat of Bradford, where he entered upon the practice of law, and soon took a leading position. He became District Attorney, and for six years held the office, discharging its duties in the most able and conscientious manner. At the expiration of that time, he resigned in order to attend to his private business. Subsequently he was elected to the State Senate, where, in 1853, he made the acquaintance of Col. George W. Scranton, with whom he co-operated in securing legislation that was deemed necessary for the success of the enterprise that the latter had undertaken, and who impressed him with the importance of Scranton, and its probable future. On the solicitation of Colonel Scranton, Mr. Sanderson visited this city for the first time in 1854, and again in 1855, when he purchased the Elisha Hitchcock

Horatio S. Pierce, who succeeded in talking each other into such a commendable spirit of liberality

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farm, now covered by the finest residences in Scranton. Shortly after this he removed with his family from Towanda, having first erected a residence, now the home of James Blair, Esq., and organized the banking house of George Sanderson & Co., the firm consisting of himself, his brother-in-law, Burton Kingsbury, Esq. This house was merged into the Lackawanna Valley Savings Bank, and later into the Lackawanna Trust and Safe Deposit Company, one of the strongest and most conservative financial institutions in the city.

He then commenced laying out streets, which resulted in opening Washington, Adams and Wyoming Avenues, from Spruce to Vine Streets, which to-day contains some of the most valuable residence property in the city. He donated to public use the lots upon which the new High School building is being erected, and was twice elected Burgess of the place of his adoption. Having disposed of most of the Hitchcock farm, and feeling ready to rest, he purchased a beautiful home in Germantown, and moved there. But lifelong habits were strong, and he found what was intended for rest was, in reality, labor, so he again took up his work and became president of a coal company, with offices in Philadelphia. On this being purchased by the Reading Coal Company, he moved back to Scranton, having purchased a large tract of land in the northern outskirts, where he erected a mansion, and developed what is now the most attractive suburban portion of the city. His policy in building up Green Ridge exhibited, in the strongest sense, his wisdom and foresight. Commencing himself by constructing the Green Ridge and Providence Street Railroad, he succeeded in drawing about him a delightful community of taste and refinement that has continued to grow chiefly on the lines he laid down for it.

After a long and active life, Mr. Sanderson died in April, 1886, followed very shortly by his wife. He left four children: J. Gardner, George, Anna K., and Marion, the latter being the wife of Edward B. Sturges, Esq. Mr. Sanderson acquired the reputation of a sound, safe, public-spirited man. As a judge of real estate values, and the probability of development, he was especially sound, and made very few mistakes, and to him more than to any other citizen is Scranton indebted for the development of the spirit that has given such an artistic character to its comfortable homes. He died regretted by all who knew him, and left a large impress on many institutions in this thriving city.

as led to an adequate supply of the sinews of war, and without which there would have been no new county."

The canvass that preceded the vote upon the question was one of the most exciting that has ever been witnessed in the valley. The friends of the cause vied with each other in working faithfully and heartily with one another from early morn until the "wee sma' hours," while the enemies had an organ which consciously appealed to all the ignorance, bitterness rancor and hate that it could summon to its aid, and was so reckless in its utterances that its editor spent some months in jail as a penalty for his vituperation. Among those who were to be found ever active in the canvass, besides the names given above were Messrs. William N. Monies, I. H. Burns, Mayor T. V. Powderly, Cornelius Smith, Hon. R. W. Archbald, J. R. Thomas, Hon. John F. Connolly, J. B. Collings, F. Johnson, George Allen, and a number of others who contributed largely to the magnificent result.

None who witnessed the grand celebration of the victory can ever forget it. The city was illuminated from one end to the other. Bells rang, whistles blew, bands played, thousands sung, shouted and cheered. The streets were light as



day and the weird, fantastic rejoicing below was mirrored toward the blue dome above in the kaleidoscopic colors of fire-works of every description. Good nature reigned everywhere, particularly among the boys who rode the dummy of an obnoxious anti-county man about the streets on a rail, to the intense enjoyment of the crowds, and finally made a bonfire with it. Men made speeches who scarcely ever talked in public, and they were all pithy and to the point. One of these deserves to go down to history. A prominent physician was seen by a crowd in front of the Forest House, and immediately called upon for a speech. In vain did he try to escape. He was seized by a dozen pairs of hands and forced up on a box. He said:

“My fellow citizens, I am not much of a talker, and besides I am extremely tired to-night. I rejoice with you all; but I have just come from attendance on one of the most protracted cases of parturition on record. The mother has been in labor for over forty years; but the child is all right, sound as a nut and pretty as a daisy. They have christened her *Lackawanna County*, and you can bet your boots that she is no abortion, either!”

It is useless to attempt to describe the yells of applause with which this was greeted. All over



the city there were similar episodes and it was early morning before the rejoicing had subsided.

The Governor's proclamation that Lackawanna County had been duly constituted the sixty-seventh county of the Commonwealth was issued on the 21st day of August, 1878, and during the same month Judge Benj. S. Bentley, and all of the county officers were duly sworn in, and the wheels of local government began to revolve. The appointment of these was made on the ground that Lackawanna County, the moment it was erected, became under the provisions of the Constitution a separate judicial district. At the instance of A. A. Chase, a writ of mandamus was issued by the Supreme Court, which said that such appointment was illegal, and directed Hon. Garrick M. Harding, President Judge, and Hon. John Handley, and Hon. W. H. Stanton, additional law judges, to organize the several Courts of the county, which was done on the 24th day of October of the same year.

The first provision made for the Courts and county offices were in the Traders' Bank building (then the Second National) for the former, and the old Washington Hall for the latter. Of course these were but temporary quarters, and were soon too small for the rapidly increasing business of

the county. In the early part of 1879, the question of the erecting a suitable Court House began to be agitated, and its location became a matter of much speculation. Of course every live business man was anxious to know definitely where this would be, and profit, if possible, on the advance in the price of adjacent real estate that must certainly ensue. From the day that the election had been so triumphantly carried, I had forseen the importance of having a suitable and central location, and been casting about to find how such could be secured without entailing great expense, for I felt that it would be unwise to burden the new county with any greater expenditure for new buildings than was absolutely necessary, lest antagonism should be created among the rural taxpayers, and the construction should be indefinitely delayed, as has been the case in some of the adjacent counties.

In discussing the matter with various friends and associates in a quiet way, we all agreed that the old swamp was the most desirable, if it could be obtained, and from the experience that was had in the construction of St. Luke's Church, I was convinced that a good foundation could be secured—the only objection that was urged against this site. Just about this time, opportunity presented itself to do some effective work. As I came out of

my office one morning, I saw Mr. James Blair in his carriage with his brother, John I. Blair, on their way up to dinner. Stopping them, I opened up the subject as soon as we had exchanged greetings, recalling to Mr. John I. Blair's mind the fact that in the original plot of the city, the block bounded by Spruce and Linden Streets and Franklin and Penn Avenues, had been set apart for a public park; but that afterwards, as there was a demand for lots there, the donation had never been made. "Now, sir," I added, "since we didn't get that, why won't your company give us the old pond. You will never do anything with it, and it will enhance the value of your other property facing on it, sufficiently to more than repay you."

"Why," he replied, "we do not own more than two-thirds of it, the rest belongs to the Beckett estate."

"Very well, you bring the matter up before your company and get the authority to state that the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company will donate their portion to the county for a Court House and park, and I will guarantee that we get the rest of it."

He promised that he would do what he could in the matter, and would bring it up at the next meeting, which was to take place in a very few days. I sat down and wrote at once to Eli K.

Price, telling him what had been promised, and urging him to make the donation. In his reply, he said that there were some legal difficulties in such a gift that he did not see his way clear about. We had considerable correspondence concerning it, and meanwhile, I heard favorably from Mr. Blair. On the receipt of his letter, I at once went to Philadelphia, and had a personal interview, in which I pointed out the advantage that would accrue to the estate—a prophesy in which I have been well borne out—and succeeded in convincing him that it was both wise and practicable. The result was a conference between the representatives of the two owners of the plot, and a joint deed of gift which the County Commissioners accepted, thus saving the county many thousands of dollars and securing for Scranton what is now conceded to be the most eligible site that the city afforded. The conditions of the deed are as follows:

*First.* The center of the block, containing two hundred and forty feet in front on Washington Avenue, the same on Adams Avenue, is to be used for the erection of a county building and a public park.

*Second.* That portion of the block on Linden Street, is held in trust to be conveyed to the City of Scranton, subject to be used for the erection of

city buildings and a public park, provided that the city will exchange therefor, the land known as the "Tripp property," near Providence, to be used by the county for the location of a jail, if demanded by the county.

*Third.* That portion of the block on Spruce Street is held in trust to be conveyed to the United States of America for the purpose of erecting government buildings thereon.

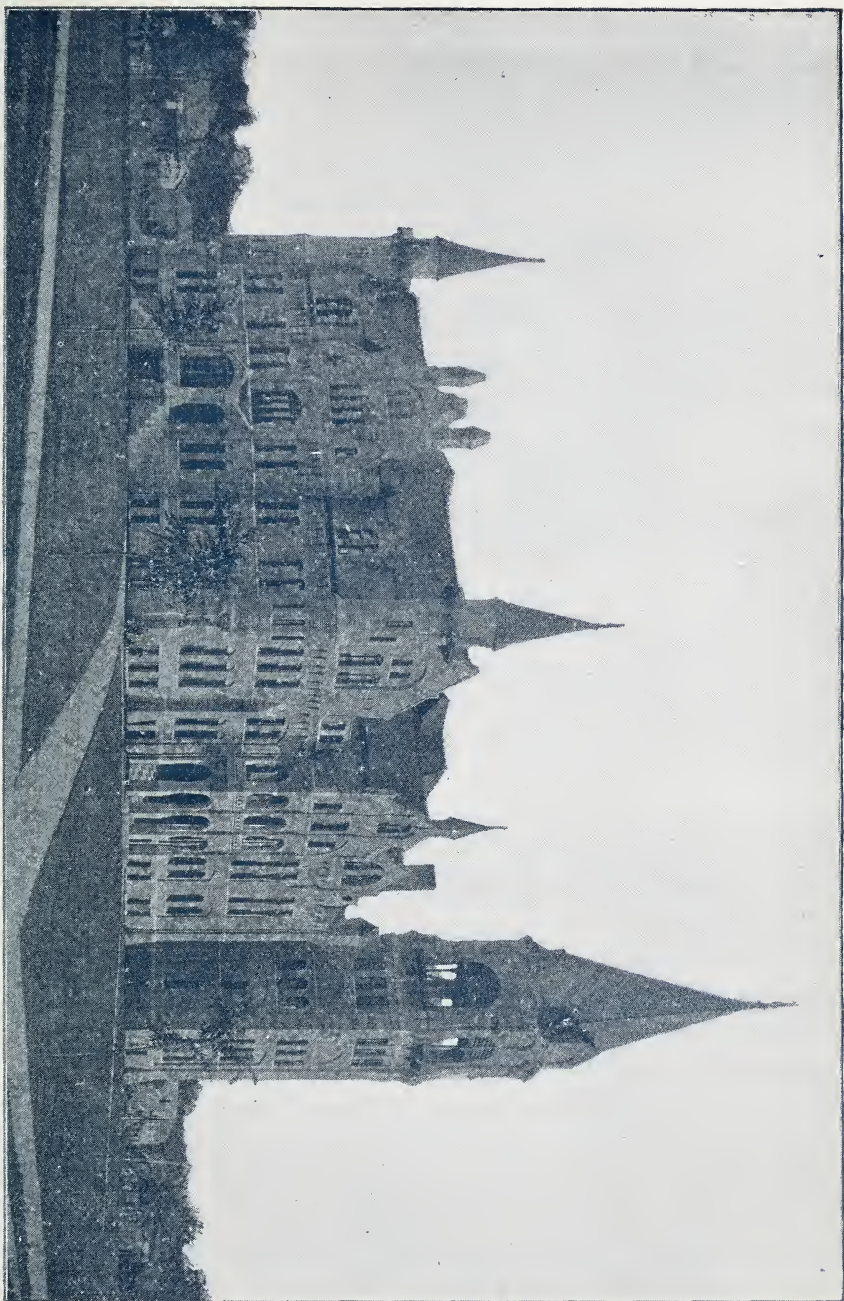
*Fourth.* The two last named portions revert to the grantor, if not used for the purposes specified.

The deed thus accepted was from the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and Edward F. Hodges, John B. Newman and Isaac C. Price, trustees of the Susquehanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad. The plans for the building were made by I. G. Perry, of Binghamton, and the contract was awarded to John Snaith, of Ithica, N. Y., whose bid was \$139,927.00 for the superstructure and foundations to the depth of twenty-four feet below the water table, and five dollars a perch for stone masonry, and sixty cents per cubic foot for excavation below that point. Ground was broken on the 14th day of April, 1881, and the building was completed three years later. The total cost was \$170,859.55.

The laying of the corner stone with the proper Masonic ceremonies, and much eclat occurred on the 25th of May, 1882, and will long be remembered by all who participated. It will ever be of special interest to those who fought for the new county, since our beautiful Court House stands as a monument to their dauntless courage and energy. Although the day proved unpropitious, there was an imposing parade of civic and masonic societies, and a large number of visitors joined the members of the bar and prominent citizens in witnessing the interesting ceremonies. The oration was delivered by Hon. Justice Alfred Hand, who, in the ten minutes allowed him on the programme, paid a glowing tribute to the jurisprudence of Pennsylvania.

The chief feature was the banquet given by the citizens and bar association, at the Wyoming House, in the evening. It was graced by many of our friends, the erstwhile enemies to the new county movement, and was a love feast most heartily enjoyed by all. As I had the honor of presiding, I may be pardoned for condensing this, an account of the proceedings, from the excellent memorial volume prepared by Hon. R. H. McKune.





LACKAWANNA COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

## The following is the programme of toasts :

- President of the Evening . . . . Dr. B. H. Throop  
 Toast Master . . . . . A. H. Winton
1. Lackawanna County . . . . . Labot Omnia Vincit  
 EDWARD MERRIFIELD, Esq.
  2. Our Invited Friends and Guests. . . . . We Welcome Them  
 HON. G. M. HARDING.
  3. Our Country . . . . . One and Indivisible  
 HON. J. A. SCRANTON.
  4. Our Commonwealth . . . . . The Keystone of the Arch  
 HIS EXCELLENCY, HENRY M. HOYT.
  5. The Pulpit . . . . . The Light of the World  
 REV. DR. J. E. SMITH.
  6. Our Military, The Pride of Our State— . . . . .  
 . . . . . May We Never Need Her Prowess  
 COL. HENRY M. BOIES.
  7. The Judiciary . . . . . The Purer the Better  
 HON. F. D. COLLINS.
  8. The Senior Bar . . . . . Old Men for Counsel  
 HON. GEORGE SANDERSON.
  9. The Junior Bar . . . . . Lis sub Judice  
 JOHN F. CONNOLLY, ESQ.
  10. Our Constitution . . . . The Stepping Stone to the New County  
 HON. A. B. DUNNING.
  11. Our Manufacturing Interests . . . . . By Industry We Thrive  
 W. W. SCRANTON.
  12. The Press. . . . . The Lever That Moves the World  
 HON. JOHN E. BARRETT.
  13. Our City . . . . . The Third in the Commonwealth  
 E. P. KINGSBURY.
  14. Our Commercial Interests . . . . Made Prosperous by Energy  
 THOMAS H. DALE.
  15. Our Fire Department . . . . . Nunquam non paratus  
 HON. ROBERT H. MCKUNE.
  16. Old Counties, Farewell . . . . . The Transplanted Oak  
 JOHN BEAUMONT COLLINGS.
  17. Our Absent Friends. . . . . Though Absent, to Memory Dear  
 COL. J. A. PRICE.
  18. The Ladies . . . . . Omnia Vincit Amor  
 F. J. FITZSIMMONS, ESQ.

The guests began to assemble in the handsomely decorated halls and parlors of the Wyom-

ing House about 8 o'clock, and while the Reception Committee was active in welcoming all, Bauer's Orchestra discoursed sweet melody. The dining hall was adorned with the flags of all nations, and a most sumptuous menu regaled the inner man. When this had been sufficiently discussed, the President of the evening announced the arrival of the hour for the feast of reason, and requested A. H. Winton, Esq., to proceed with the programme. The Toast Master in complying, most felicitously congratulated the company on the successful crowning of a long series of struggles, disappointments and laws' delays, and referred to the fact that it was peculiarly proper that on such a happy occasion, one whose revered ancestor had begun the work nearly half a century ago, should be called upon to respond to the first toast, "Lackawanna County," and Edward Merrifield, Esq., replied. He said that he had first begun to hear of the new county at the knee of his devoted father, and therefore his knowledge of the contest had been co-extensive with its beginning. In a most entertaining way he then traced the history of the movement from its inception to its happy termination, touching here and there upon the salient features of the struggle, interspersing it with happy humor and interesting reminiscence, which was punctuated with generous applause. Referring to the last fight in the Legislature, and

those who had responded to the call for financial aid, at the meeting heretofore referred to, he said: "I come here to-night to speak the truth of history; I am here to give credit to the men who got Lackawanna County. Nobody responded to our call but W. W. Winton, B. H. Throop, H. S. Pierce, George Sanderson, E. N. Willard and A. H. Winton—I was there of course. We then and there planned for ways and means, and with such abundant success that Mr. Willard and I posted off to Harrisburg, and it wasn't a great while before that bill began to see the light of day. Do not infer from what I am saying that we attempted or practiced any bribery. I distinctly and unequivocally say before this assemblage that such was not the case. But there are a thousand ways in which a well-filled pocket-book becomes the most effective arm of service. We had to be social [Applause] besides there were many things to be done which it is unnecessary to speak of here, even if I had the time. The result was our measure became a success. I do not wish to detract at all from the interest that was taken by so many of our citizens in this bill—I do not wish to take away the credit that is due all those who labored so earnestly in its behalf. But I do say, had it not been for the liberality of the men I have just mentioned, *there never would have been a Lackawanna County.*"



"After we had got the bill through, and the supplemental proceedings were well under way, then came another fight, and you will all recollect it. Some pugnacious opponents thought to balk our efforts by a suit in equity, and put us in a mill of interminable litigation; but it didn't work, thanks to the vigilance of the attorneys whom we were so fortunate as to engage in our behalf. And in this connection let us do credit to the distinguished gentleman who occupied the bench as President Judge at the time of this attempted outrage—at least, I desire to add my tribute of respect to the stability and pluck of Garrick M. Harding for the manner in which he performed his duty against the direct interests of the people among whom he lived. When the question came before him in which he could have blasted our hopes by stopping the proceedings, he had the manhood and independence to permit no unjust delays, but stand up and decide it according to law."

After detailing some of the adverse influences, that were at work during the campaign, and referring to the falsehoods that were set afloat, and the schemes of the minority opposition that were unearthed, Mr. Merrifield closed with an eloquent apostrophe to the new county, and a fervent prayer

that its temple of justice might never be vilified or insulted by a betrayal of justice.

A number of letters of declination were read, and after appropriate music, the Toast Master referred humorously to the fact that Scranton had never captured Wilkes-Barre until it captured the Court. "We sent down Hon. Lewis Pughe," he said, "and somehow we captured a newspaper. I used to parade it in the newspaper every morning, and when we captured the Court, we captured Judge Roan and Hon. T. B. Lewis, and by and by General McCartney, and many others who fell into our work." He then called on Judge Stanley Woodward to respond to the toast, "Our Invited Guests," who, in the course of his congratulations said that it was quite evident from the testimony of Judge Merrifield that the birth of Lackawanna County was pure and virtuous. It came in wedlock, and was not born out of wedlock. No dishonesty was used to produce Lackawanna County, but, on the contrary, it was the outgrowth of public sentiment, yet stimulated by public and private means. It was rather strange that the people of Luzerne County should be called upon to give congratulations on the breaking up of the family. I can't say that it was an elopement. In the first place, you didn't go off and join yourself to somebody else; in the second place, you didn't go off



suddenly, or by night. We received, from time to time, notice of your going before you went, and from time to time put sprags in the progress of your departure, until we run out of sprags. [Laughter and applause] But as a mother county, if I may be so bold as to represent her sentiment to any extent to-night, I may say that we do congratulate you. We feel as proud of you as a natural mother feels when her boys and girls do well.

\* \* \* There can be no rivalry between Lackawanna and Luzerne counties \* \* \* we can work in harmony \* \* \* to one purpose and one destiny—the proudest territorial portion of the Keystone State.”

Governor Hoyt, who was to have responded to the next toast, “Our Commonwealth,” was too ill to be present, and after the Toast Master had read a congratulatory letter from him, Judge Rice responded, referring briefly to some of the early motives that had existed in opposition to the division of the county, and assuring all that since it was an accomplished fact, he but voiced the sentiment of old Luzerne when he said that the movement had succeeded because it was just and right that it should succeed, and was warmly applauded.

In the absence of Hon J. A. Scranton, who was detained by Congressional business, the toast, “Our

Country," was responded to by Hon. W. H. Jessup, who eloquently expanded the idea that our country was not the inanimate rock—not the mineral wealth or the agricultural richness, but the men and women that adorn it. It is the intellect, brain-power, that make the country one and indivisible, and therefore its institutions should be erected upon the triple base of purity, patriotism and virtue, upon which may be built a tower that will go onward and upward until the ages are gray and hoary. This was the lesson of the hour, and the moral was appropriately pointed.

The "Star Spangled Banner" brought forth three ringing cheers, and then Mr. Winton humorously announced that in the enforced absence of Rev. J. E. Smith, who was to have responded to the toast, "The Pulpit," he had been unable to find any one pious enough to represent him, and called upon the orchestra for a hymn, after which Col. H. M. Boies spoke of "Our Military," making the point that not until Scranton had demonstrated to the State her ability to take care of herself, had the Legislature been influenced to grant the petition of a new county. The wisest law and the ablest administration of it was vain, weak and powerless as the wind, unless there was behind it an ever present, palpable power to put it into exe-

cution. In this fact lay the value of our splendid National Guard.

The toast, "The Judiciary," was, in the absence of Mr. Collins, responded to by Hon. Alfred Hand. Elhannan Smith, Esq., took the place assigned to Hon. George Sanderson, who was unavoidably absent, and was to have replied to "The Senior Bar," while "The Junior Bar" was the subject of Hon. John Connolly's address. All were replete with timely sentiment, eloquent sentences and felicitous humor, and were loudly applauded.

The next toast, "Our Constitution," was responded to by Hon. A. B. Dunning, who was one of the pioneers in the struggle. He said that, thirty-five years before, he had left his business, and gone to the Legislature solely in the interests of the new county. "I had been familiar with the fight from its inception. I remember well when the issue was raised, and William Merrifield, the father of the gentleman who introduced the topic here to-night, was elected to the Legislature, and nearly gave us a new county. I don't propose to say much about what was done by our friends in the lower end at that time, but the defeat of the measure was one of the smart things that they *did* do. But, taking things all the way along, step by step, I look around me to-night and see gentle-

men who stood shoulder to shoulder with me in the Legislature and elsewhere, giving material aid. Dr. Throop spent two entire winters there giving most valuable assistance. I was fortunate enough always to pass the bill in the House, and recollect, the second time it was passed, we had so strong an assurance it was going through the Senate that my friend Throop, in full confidence that the thing was accomplished, gave what you may call a little blow-out. The banquet he gave to the friends of the bill cost him two or three hundred dollars, thus showing the interest he felt in the subject. I cannot enumerate all who have given years of service and means to this long-continued struggle. None among them all, however, were more liberal than Dr. Throop and Col. Ira Tripp, both of whom have kept open house at Harrisburg entire sessions, and their well-known liberality tells the story so far as expense goes. 'All's well that ends well.' The struggle is over, and we meet here to-night to shake hands over the bloodless chasm—old and new county friends to rejoice together." Continuing, Mr. Dunning drew a well-turned analogy between the conditions which had given the people the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and the struggle that was had to obtain them, and the results which had just been reached in the fight for Lackawanna County.

Mr. W. W. Scranton, in responding to "Our Industrial Interests," called attention to the fact that it would not do to rely on mining alone as a basis for the prosperity of the community. In less than a century, the coal would be exhausted, and there were many present who would live to see the time when the growth of the city would be checked, unless provision was now made for manufacturing interests. "We want good government; we want law and order; we want moderate taxation. If you will give us these things, we will prosper and foster these little industries, and, in our time, we will take care of you."

Hon. John E. Barrett, whose zealous and effective work for the new county as Harrisburg correspondent, was eulogized by the Toast Master in calling upon him, then responded to "The Press." In a brief speech full of wit and wisdom, he referred to the part which the modern newspaper plays in the domain of progress. It needed no praise; it was its own best eulogist. "As the press of Lackawanna County had stood by the new county at its birth, so, I trust, it will be found advocating its interests in all time to come; advocating an upright judiciary and the fearless administration of the law, and always raising its voice

" 'Gainst the wrong that needs resistance,  
For the cause that needs assistance,  
For the future in the distance,  
All the good that it can do.' "

"Our City" was the toast to which Mr. E. P. Kingsbury responded with a decidedly witty preface. He referred to the fact that it was not only third in population, but in many other important respects. In speaking of the rapidity of growth he said, "Why, so late as 1852, and even later I think, the voters of what was then called Harrison had to go to Hyde Park to vote, and the whole of them could be crowded into one of our street cars; yet at the charter election, in February last, when our excellent Mayor was re-elected, nearly seven thousand votes were polled. \* \* \* Again Scranton may be proud of its banks and banking institutions, for there is on deposit in them, subject to check, over \$3,500,000\* and every one of these institutions can easily and promptly meet every one of its obligations.

How well I remember when yon First National Bank commenced business in a little frame building half the dimensions of this room, on Lackawanna Avenue, and the cashier daily placing all of the valuables of the bank in a tin box 7x9, and depositing it in the vault of Mason, Meylert & Co. for safe-keeping. It would take a pretty good-sized vault to hold them now!" He closed with

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\* This was twelve years ago. The sum is much greater now. The amount of clearings for the first week in January, 1894, were \$700,000.



the following sentiment: "The City of Scranton, now third in the Commonwealth. May the rapidity of her growth, and her success in the past, be as earnest of her glory in the future."

When Mr. T. H. Dale spoke to "Our Commercial Interests," he said, among other good things, that if he might be "allowed to use a paradox, commercial interests first made Scranton, and then Scranton made its commercial interests. For, before Scranton was, before it attained its present stately proportions and 'magnificent distances' \*  
\* \* and long before any lawyers were here to give a banquet, 'commercial interests' in the persons of the Messrs. Scranton had sought it out; and the company they organized turned out to be the foundation of that which has since become Scranton City with all of its varied industries. I know, sir, that in the flight of time many things we ought to remember sink out of sight, and the years close over them, but there are some things that remain visible across the years; and so it is that I, to-night, desire to pay tribute to the indomitable perseverance, to the will, the pluck, and the energy of these pioneers in our commercial interests, and to assert that their methods have been adopted, and have become characteristic of those who have since developed our commercial industries \* \* \* I feel, too, that credit

should not be withheld from others who have aided in building up our industries and our business enterprises — manufacturers, bankers, merchants, even lawyers—all have done their share and deserve credit. I shall not even omit a somewhat noted character, residing on our side of the river, who some time since started a store on one of the back streets of our city, and who was inclined to boast a good deal about the stock of goods he was carrying, and the large business he was doing, and who, on one occasion, after expatiating largely upon his great purchases, declared he had everything in the *hardware* line, except *molasses*." Mr. Dale then gave some interesting facts and figures concerning the city at that time, and drew from them deductions that elicited much applause.

Ex-Mayor R. H. McKune then expressed the sentiments of the assembly as he paid high compliments to the efficiency of "Our Fire Department," which, he said, would compare favorably with any of its size in the United States, and yet it costs the city less per annum than the maintenance of a single company in Philadelphia or New York. Toast Master Winton said that he had expected to have present a silver-tongued orator to reply to the sentiment, "Our Absent Friends," but Col. J. A. Price, who was on the programme, was himself an absent friend, and a

graceful letter from him was read, after which F. J. Fitzsimmons, Esq., paid a graceful, witty and poetic tribute, "The Ladies."

Brief speeches were made by Hon. Albert I. Ackerly and Mr. Selden T. Scranton, and then the President called upon Col. Charles Scranton, who said :

*"Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Lackawanna Bar, the Luzerne Bar, and all the other "bars" here present [Laughter] and fellow citizens :* I am very unexpectedly with you on this joyous occasion. When I left my home in New Jersey this afternoon, I didn't even know that there was anything unusual in progress in your city. I find myself your guest, and now you have called upon me for a speech. At this late, or early hour, after so many good things have been said by so many able speakers, what shall I say ? Shall I go back to the early days of your town's history, and call to mind some of the pleasant incidents of my early recollections of Slocum's Hollow ? As this part has been somewhat overlooked, I will, in my brief remarks, refer to the glory and work of the early days ; for from its foundation to the present time, I have watched, with deep interest, every step in your rapid rise and progress, your wealth and prosperity. Then you were a feeble folk.

Now you have risen to rank and station, and you are here to-night to celebrate a great event in your history—the laying of the corner stone of a new Court House of a county second to none for its real wealth and enterprise in this great Commonwealth. Forty years ago, I believe there was but one lawyer (the late Charles H. Silkman), between Carbondale and Pittston, and only one small church building in the same territory, and very few (and they were very small) school houses in this same valley. Now your lawyers are numerous, as I notice by the number present, and your churches and school houses, numerous also, are noted for their style of architecture, and the moral and educational influences going out therefrom. [Applause] I will give you one or two little items that can hardly fail to interest those living at the time, and those who have been born since. At that time our worthy Chairman was about the only doctor in this section. The families were far apart, and generally very healthy. The whole vote of Providence Township, if my memory serves me, was only about 147. The doctor, *though exceedingly conscientious*, had a pretty hard time at that early day, to keep his patients sick long enough to make a fair living. [Laughter] He had to go into the lumber business and drug business, and trade a horse occasionally, to make a decent living. I remember having been called

from New Jersey to help, in place of one of the book-keepers, who was sick, or nearly so, by the loneliness here, after coming from the large town of Oxford. It was then that, in order to relieve the monotony of the situation, I proposed getting up a debating school. The thing took quickly, and I was appointed to draw up the constitution and by-laws, and our worthy Chairman was appointed to deliver the opening lecture.\* I need not tell you it was a grand one. I believe it had to be repeated at numerous villages in the county. The late Hon. W. W. Ketcham and others began to show their brain power in this little thing. For the generous part which I bore in the premises, I was, with Mr. Charles F. Mattes, excused from taking part in the debates, and we were made "gentlemen judges." Martin L. Newman, the chief-of-police, and the only constable for miles around, was also on hand as a debator.

Another great event transpired. It was resolved, at a public meeting held at the house of N. D. Green, Hyde Park, that the coming National Anniversary ought to be, and should be, celebrated with imposing ceremony, and the citizens of Razorville, Bucktown and Slocum's Hollow were invited to co-operate and made it a grand success, showing

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\* This was the same lecture delivered before the Blakeley Literary Society, the text of which is given on page 50

the folks down the valley what could be done up this way. There are a few yet living who well remember the day—how the delegations came from the places named ; how proudly old Captain Feltz, the grand marshal, led the procession, with “sword and buckler” by his side, and his numerous Masonic emblems dangling by his coat collar ; how the delegation from Slocum’s Hollow, with Col. George W. Scranton at the head, Dr. Throop second, with fiddle and bow, Charles F. Mattes next with clarionet, some other one with bass drum, Esquire Grant, R. W. Olmstead, William Manness and some twenty others, all marching to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne,” down the old stump-fenced road, over the teetering bridge, up the steep hillside [Laughter] and solemnly into the little church, well packed with eager listeners to the oration that was to follow, and the martial music ; and to hear the rendering by the vocal and instrumental powers present, of the ode prepared for the occasion by one of the *literati* of the valley, which was all played and sung to the principle tune, “Auld Lang Syne.” [Laughter] I wish I had time to recite it, and could remember it. [Cries of “Give us a verse ! ”] Well, it ran about this way:

“ The land whereon our village stands,  
Where once the savage trod,  
Is mostly cleared, you’ll understand,  
And covered o’er with sod.”



[Loud calls were here given for more of it.] Well, another verse ran about thus :

“ Brave Washington, now dead and gone,  
No more of him you'll see,  
America, her greatest son,  
He gained her liberty.”

Now, to be more serious. I have heard from the gentlemen who preceded me, of the great struggle you have gone through with in finally obtaining your object—a new county. Now that, as you always need, you have had the good offices and friendship of your worthy Chairman, the Doctor, all the way through, in having the birth of this new daughter of old Mother Luzerne more than a still-birth. But, as legal gentlemen present have stated, no more new counties can be made under your present Constitution, I therefore have to congratulate the friends from old Luzerne, on the fact that no more new counties are to be cut from her territory; that she will be spared all these birth pains in the future; and now, side by side, these two great counties, Luzerne and Lackawanna, one in interest and origin, are to go hand in hand in all the great work before them. And in conclusion let me say that the broad, deep and solid foundations laid here by the late William Henry, Colonel George W. Scranton, Philip H. Mattes, Sanford Grant (who still lives and ought to be here to-night), and Selden T. Scranton, at

the beginning, and later aided by Joseph H. Scranton and others, with the good will and fellowship of your Chairman and the other citizens then in this vicinity, have made it possible to have this new county, this corner stone laying, this banquet, this city, the third in size in the Commonwealth—so well governed and orderly that its police force is said to be the smallest for the same sized population in the Union ; and for my friend, Mr. John Jermyn, who sits there, and who did his first day's work in the garden of Mr. S. T. Scranton, for seventy-five cents, to be a millionaire ; for your honored Chairman to be another ; for my good friend on my right, Mr. J. J. Albright, to come back from Old Virginia shorn of his fortune, and now rich beyond measure ; for my young friend Connolly, whose father did good work for the pioneers at the first old furnace, to be respondent to-night for the junior members of the Bar of Lackawanna County ; and so I might go on, did time and your patience permit, and call out by name hundreds of others who have made a name, and fame, and money, and homes here in this valley, because of the solid foundations laid, of the privations, hard work, and struggles of the pioneers which were overcome by their indomitable pluck, and aided by your churches and schools and good fellowship. All of these combinations, with those before alluded to, form in history a

part of the enjoyment of this festive occasion. May God bless you all in all the proper aims of life, and "Justice, with her even scales" be deeply fixed in your hearts and in your business transactions for yourselves and others."

Mr. J. J. Albright was then called upon, and made a brief congratulatory speech, in which he narrated the fact that upon his first visit to what is now Scranton, he had been offered a plot of five hundred acres for ten dollars an acre, but had not the money to purchase it. The outgrowth of Scranton had been greater than any one had perceived, even in his fancy flights, and he was thankful to have been permitted to have seen this day. He trusted that no person who had been active in the formation of this county would ever have reason to regret the labor performed, and that the temple of justice, the corner stone of which had just been laid, would always be the house wherein *equal and exact justice to all* would be administered by pure and upright judges.

Calls for Mr. John Jermyn brought that gentleman to his feet with the statement that had he known that he was to be called upon, it was doubtful whether he would have been present to enjoy what, with the exception of the demand now made on him, was one of the most delightful evenings

—and he might say mornings—he had ever spent. The reminiscences of others had brought to his mind many incidents in which he was permitted to participate, when he came to Scranton, in the early days. “The world has dealt generously with me since then,” he said in closing, “and for that success I feel under great obligation to one who, at all times, and under all circumstances, was my friend, and for whom, as his brother has told you, I did my first day’s work in this locality. I have desired for some years to give public recognition of the esteem in which I hold his memory. To me, this seems to be the opportunity, and, as no monument marks the spot where he now lies, I would suggest that a subscription for the erection of a monument to Col. George W. Scranton be now started, and you may put me down for one, two or three hundred dollars.”

This suggestion was seconded amid much applause, and, on motion, a committee consisting of Dr. B. H. Throop, John Jermyn, Hon. R.W. Archbald, Hon. H. M. Edwards, J. J. Albright and H. A. Kingsbury was appointed to carry it into effect.

When Hon. F. W. Gunster was called upon, he said that he regretted that the gentleman who was to have responded to the toast, “Our Absent Friends,” was not present, as he would have done

the subject ample justice. Continuing, he said: "Many men who have been interested in this new county question are not with us to-night, and whom we shall never see again—men like William Merrifield and Captain Robinson. There is another man whom I shall always think of with the feeling that when I met him, I met a *man*. He wasn't born in this country; he was a Scotchman, and like all good Scotchmen, he loved the land of his birth, but, because he preferred a country where it wasn't necessary to have a standing army to keep the crown on the royal head, he came to this country. A man of keen perception, of strict integrity, of great energy; a man of unusual ability, a man who was devoted to his country, and when his country called he was ready; a man who was devoted to the interests of his community; a man who may have had his faults, but a man who had his virtues and his friends. I know that man is with us in spirit to-night. I propose the name of William N. Monies." \*

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\* William N. Monies was born in the village of New Dailly, Ayrshire, Scotland, May 10th, 1827; attended school at the age of four, and when ten was apprenticed to a baker. At the age of eighteen, he began business on his own responsibility, and his ambition and inherent love for a wider sphere of action, naturally prompted his thoughts to turn toward the United States, whither he came in 1849. His young wife, Miss Mary Kirk, crossed the ocean on the same vessel with him, and the couple crowned their romantic trip by being united in marriage on their arrival at Carbondale. Here he was employed at his trade by Andrew Law at six dollars a week for six months, after which

The guests rose and drank to the memory of William N. Monies, and then the President called upon Mr. Isaac C. Price, who, in a brief response, extended his congratulations to the citizens of the new county not only for the victory that had crowned their prolonged efforts, but also for the magnificent progress that their metropolis was

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he started in business on his own account. In 1852, when the gold fever was at its height, he went to California, and after several vicissitudes returned with a competency, and went into the milling business with Joseph Gillespie, at Providence, of which he was soon elected Burgess. When the war broke out, he hastened to Harrisburg, and offered his services to the country of his adoption. He was made Captain of Company B, 136th Penn'a Volunteers, and for nine months was in the stormy struggles about Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. When the invasion of the State was threatened, he was one of the first to respond to Governor Curtin's proclamation, and was on hand with one hundred and thirty-six men, which were the nucleus of the "Monies Tigers," and rendered distinguished service for which they received public service. He was afterward elected Colonel.

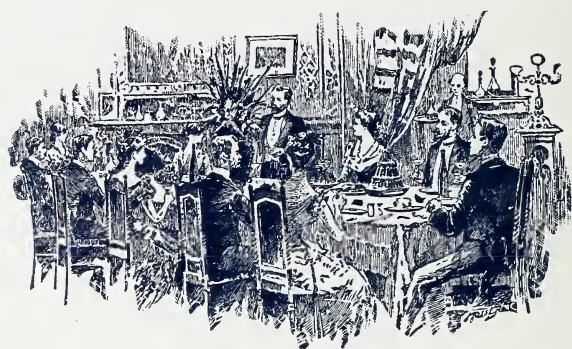
At the close of the war he returned to his mill business, but soon afterward sold out his interest to his partner, and engaged in the establishment of the "Star" Bakery with Hon. Lewis Pughe as a partner. He also invested largely in coal lands, and was interested in some of the western silver mines, and amassed a considerable fortune.

He was elected Mayor of the City of Scranton in 1869, although the Democratic majority was over 1,200, and he was a staunch Republican. Always enterprising, public spirited and sagacious, he was instrumental in establishing a number of industries in the valley, all of which were successful; and was one of the staunchest workers for the new county. He was appointed the first treasurer thereof, and his management was signalized by strict integrity and great efficiency. Subsequently he was nominated and elected to the office by the Republican party, but the Supreme Court held that there was not a legal election at the time. After settling up his books, which were models of accuracy, he revisited his native land, and on his return, after a brief illness, died January 10, 1881, regretted by all who knew him.



making. Visiting it as he did, yearly, he could appreciate the substantial improvements that were constantly going on, and the successive steps that marked its prosperity stood in bold relief before him, and made him realize that his abundant confidence in the future of Scranton had not been misplaced.

As the intermingled strains of "Auld Lang Syne" and "Home, Sweet Home" filled the banquet hall, the company broke up, and amid universal congratulations, closed one of the most memorable occasions in the history of the city.



## CHAPTER TWELFTH.

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### SOME MILITARY MEMORIES.

The Bombardment of Sumpter—President Lincoln's Call—Scranton's Prompt Response—The War Inevitable, and an Ancient Heritage—Early Leaven of Abolition Sentiment in This Soil—General Feeling on the Slavery Question—Political Complexion of the County—Feeling During Buchanan's Administration—Volunteers Start for Harrisburg—Field and Staff of Eighth Regiment—An Unexpected Commission—Colonel Tripp's Appointment—Camp Slifer, and its Facilities—Scarcity of Supplies—After Antietam—The Smoketown Hospital—Pitiable Condition of the Men.

**W**HEN the news of the bombarding of Fort Sumpter—of the actual firing upon the flag of the nation—thrilled the telegraph wires of the country, and sent to fever heat the throbbing pulse of the Unconditional Unionist, the whole of this section of Northeastern Pennsylvania was peculiarly moved. It was a crisis that had not been unapprehended; and, so long had it menaced, that it was, in a measure, expected; yet, as has always been true of the culmination of any great conflict between men and measures, diametrically opposed, the shock was as sudden locally as was it to the Nation. It

moved all to action, and though the importance of the issue was, in a measure appreciated, few realized the magnitude of the struggle, and the tragically obstinate resistance being precipitated. There was no time for deliberation. It was a question of men, measures and immediate action. Thrilling events came crowding on each others' heels. On April 14, the day of the bombardment, the Legislature had appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the arming of the State. Two days later, President Lincoln issued his call for seventy-five thousand volunteers for three months. Without waiting for action on the part of the State, this entire section responded promptly, loyally, to the President's call; and five days after the evacuation of Sumpter, the regiment of which I was surgeon was on its way to the front. Aside from the pardonable pride which all the brave men who composed it feel in the alacrity of this response, the fact itself is not without its historic significance, and stands a bright example of the working of some of the important underlying forces which have been potent factors in shaping the destinies of this prosperous city and county, which it may be well to consider.

It is not necessary here to deal with the causes of the war in detail. They are known to every intelligent school-boy of the land, and have been

expounded time and again, wisely by some—narrowly and fanatically by others. That it was inevitable—that it was just—that it was best—that it accomplished the grandest humanity of modern history quickly, even though at a terrible sacrifice, all true men agree; as do they also that it settled irrevocably a question which (perhaps because it was deemed the plan most expedient at the time) was left scarcely tacitly disposed of in the formation of the Constitution. The war, like the inhumanity of which it disposed, and the question most at issue which directly precipitated it, was a legacy of the past—a bequest so modified, it is true, by new conditions, so transformed by different environments, so correlated with an entirely changed order of things as to temporarily confuse the most clear-sighted by its Protean character; yet, withal, a struggle of most respectable antiquity, which could trace its ancestors back to the Thirteenth Century, and had a family tree that had waved its leafy banners amid the historic civil storms of half a dozen peoples in the Old World.

I do not care to trace its genealogy minutely. It will be sufficient to merely suggest it and its relation to some local conditions, and thus account for some of the most marked changes in political belief among the older residents of Scranton,

which it had brought about. To do this, it is necessary to touch upon a few points here and there to make clear the line of derivation. With all of the asperities of the time and the aggressions of the hour mellowed by the tranquil sunshine of three decades of broader, higher, nobler, more Christian prosperity than has ever before been known, we can see this great contest in a clearer light; and, as the immediate scenes of bloody activity and horror recede in the perspective of the past, the struggle takes its correct historical setting, and reveals itself as only another phase of the uncompromising conflict between personal liberty to all men in all things and any power subversive of this precious right—a contest which began with John Wyckliff, “The Rising Star of the Reformation,” and has ever and anon come in great pulses of progress since that time—a conflict which shall not cease until the shackles fall from every wrist to the uttermost parts of the earth—till each one “Shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make him free.”

In thus laying stress upon the point that the Civil War was only another phase of the struggle between the Cavaliers and the Roundheads, I am, of course, touching on nothing very new. Colonial history bristles with it. In the struggle to free our necks from the yoke of Great Britain, it



was so potent a factor that one of the most able of modern American historians \* has devoted an entire volume to the period when, under many guises, it threatened the young Republic. The biases and prejudices engendered by the two factions in the Old World were transmitted to the New. They appear all along the lines of development in the States, and created distinctive classes. They gave character to both the propagation and resistance of the Abolition agitation, until there was reached, in a different form, another vindication of those rights, privileges, doctrines and inheritances that the barons wrested from King John at Runnymede and the Pilgrims prayed for on Plymouth Rock. "For God and the Charter" was inscribed on Cromwell's banners. Under Divine guidance the rallying cry of '61 was "For God and the Union Forever," and to preserve the latter from the pernicious heresy of State Sovereignty, the field was taken. Three years later, the martyred Lincoln, a wise instrument in His hands, proclaimed the abolition of slavery simply as a war measure, and with a fierce determination to maintain the right of secession, the Southern Confederacy fell, and with its fall came the destruction of the most infamous institution that has ever cursed the

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\* John Fisk: "Critical Period of the American Revolution."

human race, and came out of measures which were only intensified by limiting the curse, to scotch the serpent; not kill it.

The parallelism of the struggles referred to might be more closely shown by citing how far the Church of all denominations throughout the South bolstered up State in the perpetuation of monstrous crime and corruption, as it has always done, when it has tampered with religious liberty at the expense of truth; but that is not to the purpose here, where the only object is to show how the intense loyalty and self-sacrifice of this portion of the State, and of Scranton in particular, was a matter of inheritance as well as of privilege.

The early settlers in the Lackawanna Valley were almost, if not all, from New England, and had been bred under Puritan influences. While it is true that under the freedom from restraint which comes of frontier life, they were sadly lax in some of their personal observances, and, perhaps, quite over the line which divides omissions from commissions; their best ideals, modes of thought, and gradually forming institutions were all after New England models. So long as they remained unmolested under the jurisdiction of Connecticut, there was a marked home effort to engraft its institutions, modes of thought and manners of

living on the settlement, as is attested by many interesting details related in the Westmoreland Records. The provisions for the public schools are a noticeable instance of this, as are also some of the earlier methods of procedure in minor civil matters. The Pennamite War, with all of its bitternesses, only tended to intensify these feelings of loyalty to the parent State, and unified the "Yankees" even more than would have been natural under other circumstances, as the antagonisms it created prevented the social mingling of the two classes in the community, and the gradual fusing of the characteristics of both into one common type of settlers. Those who were driven out during the struggle, either returned themselves, or sent representatives to look after their possessions, after the Trenton Decree had been rendered, and thus created a majority among whom New England ideas were predominant, so that, to a certain extent, they moulded public opinion, even to-day.

In this way there was early a leaven of Abolition sentiment in the community, and the sentiments of Garrison and his followers found a ready echo. Those who came in from the other Northern States readily fell in with the views of the older settlers on the slavery question; though it may be said, with truth, that few of the active ones considered

it as a general issue entering vitally into National politics. They believe as every righteous man of those days did, that slavery, *per se*, was a terrible wrong, and a monstrous inhumanity; but it was regarded as a legacy of the past, and there seemed no way to dispose of it without manifest injustice. The political complexion of the county was Democratic, or, later, Loco-Foco, and the most active men in this portion of it co-operated with the leaders to keep that faction in domination. In the earlier days, Providence Corners, and the stores about them were a sort of general political headquarters in local rivalry with Hyde Park and Bucktown, but solid when it came to men and measures in general legislation. All of the early industrial projects were born of Democratic parents and advocated by those who had been put in power by that party. The system of slack water navigation on the Lackawanna River, which was the first consistent attempt to gain some outlet for the industrial wealth of this portion of the valley, had sponsors who stood high in Loco-Foco ranks. So, also, the first movements to have a new county, and make Scranton the true center of the territory naturally tributary to it. All of the early battles of the valley were fought successfully under this flag.

The aggressions of the slave States, the attempt to extend the pernicious system, and the success-

ion of temporizing measures adopted by both parties in the National Congress were watched with interest but excited little more than passing local feeling. It was not until the attitude of an arrogant South menaced the integrity of the republic that the party lines became distinctly drawn, and those who had been all their lives Democratic began to lose faith in the men and measures of their party. During Buchanan's administration, there was a general shifting around of party affiliations, and on the nomination of Lincoln the sensible sentiment of the better class of the community crystalized, carrying with it the lesser elements, and rallying uncompromisingly to the Union standard. In the new fold, and with the birth of the Republican party, and the departure from old lines, the most dominant workers and thinkers found full scope for all their activities, and have had no reason to regret the choice that they had made.

It is not the intention to inject politics into these memoirs in the slightest degree farther than it is necessary to account for some of the changes which have now become historic. Considering the sources from which it sprung, it is but natural that the whole force of the civilization here should have been swung in the line of preserving the Republic against the heresy of secession, and it is

even more natural that this particular section, born of New England ideas, and replete of her conceptions, should have been among the first to respond when the integrity of the priceless gift of her forefathers was threatened.

Soon after my advent in the valley, the Abolitionist movement began to be felt locally, and there was a fairly strong contingent which organized as an Abolition Society. It was not so much a political party as was it an organized philanthropy which embraced in its list of members men of both the Whig and Loco-Foco ranks, and might be likened to the Prohibitionist element of to-day, except that it was not so completely organized. Luther Ackerly, of Carbondale, was one of the early leaders of the movement in this end of the county, whilst Mr. Gildersleeve, of Wilkes-Barre, looked after the propogation of its doctrines at that end of the line. As the years rolled on, and the question of slavery became more and more injected into national politics, the Abolitionists increased in strength; but they never became a very important factor in local politics. At times they affiliated with the Whigs, when some of their sympathizers had been nominated on that ticket, and less frequently with the Loco-Foco ticket, which was usually successful. The struggle over the Crittenden Compromise, and, later, the trouble



in Kansas, had the effect of crystalizing local feeling to a greater or less extent, but it still dominated a comparatively unimportant faction in, which was united with the dominant parties of the day by the common interest of local development to which all energies were directed, upon the interests of which most local elections turned. The Representatives, both in National and State Assemblies were selected from among the leading spirits of the day because they could subserve some end in the developement of the region, rather than as exponents of any pronounced national policy. This was true even after the events at Boston had determined the national existence of the two great parties, and it was not until the integrity of the Republic was threatened, that Abolitionists and Democrats alike found themselves shoulder to shoulder in a common defense, and, under a flag that meant all of liberty to them, were an indivisible unit in the magnificent bravery that is their greatest pride and honor. The four years of thrilling, tragic episode which followed saw old party lines completely expunged in this, as well as other sections of the State. The brave men who returned from the front after the struggle found they were no longer in harmony with their old party affiliations, because that party had drifted away from its old land-marks, and, in its new relations was not in sympathy with the faith which

they and their brethern had been baptized into by fraternal blood. With few exceptions they became Republicans and have since remained so, willing to both acknowledge and prove the wisdom and patriotism of the new faith that is in them.

The call of the President for volunteers electrified the loyal men everywhere throughout this as well as adjacent counties, and a steady stream of recruits presented itself for rapid enrollment. All of the prominent men in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre co-operated with the officers appointed for the purpose by Governor Curtin, and the Eighth Regiment was soon on its way to Harrisburg. Of the companies which composed it, E and H, were recruited at Scranton, and as soon as the quota was filled, it took the train for Camp Curtin. Company B was recruited at Moscow, and was the last to leave for the rendezvous. The Captain was William Travis, an old acquaintance of mine, and he would hear of nothing except that I should accompany the boys to Harrisburg, and see them off for the front. Of course I consented, and packing a small valise, made ready for the trip. I also prevailed upon Gen. Meylert\* to accompany me.

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\* Amos Nicholls Meylert was born at New Milford, Susquehanna County, Pa., December 2, 1821, being the eldest son of Lecku Meylert and Abigail Nicholls, both of whom were widely known, universally respected, and influential citizens of that county.



A. N. Mayland



Both of us were well acquainted at the State Capital, and were sufficiently prominent to be of service to the companies in securing prompt recognition, and, what was more to the point, com-

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One of the first business enterprises of A. N. Meylert, when only nineteen years old, was the publication of *The North Star*, a weekly newspaper, at Montrose, Pa., where his family then resided.

When still a young man he accepted the agency of a large tract of land in Western Pennsylvania, and made his new home with his little family in Butler, residing there until 1857, when, having acquired a competency, and settled most of his trusts, he moved to Philadelphia, where his children might have better educational advantages; his brother Michael being in some financial embarrassment in Scranton, he went there to assist him, and becoming interested in that thriving young city, decided to remain and engage in the banking business, the firm being Mason, Meylert & Co., the other members being his brother and Col. N. F. Mason, of Towanda, Pa., (in the building now occupied by the Scranton Savings Bank). He purchased large tracts of land here, and owned what has since been called "Meylert's Addition to Green Ridge."

He was appointed in 1842, under David R. Porter, Governor of Pennsylvania, Brigade Quartermaster of the Third Brigade, Eighth Division of the State Militia, composed of the counties of Northumberland, Union, Columbia, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wayne; Aid on Governor Bigeler's Staff in 1852, with the rank of Colonel.

He was appointed, in 1860, Assistant Quartermaster General, with the rank of Major, by William F. Packer, Governor, and was elected Brigadier General of the Second Brigade, Ninth Division, of the Uniformed Militia of the counties of Columbia, Luzerne and Wyoming, the same year. He was an active and tried friend of the government during the War of the Rebellion, but unable to do active service in the field, on account of his inability to pass a physical examination, although offered a desirable commission by Governor Curtin. He had a large and valuable circle of acquaintances among leading, influential men of the Middle States. He was dignified and reserved, but genial, kind-hearted, upright, conscientious and liberal minded, one of nature's noblemen, of whom his friends were wont to say "his word was as good as his bond." He died in Scranton, Pa., May 3, 1873.

fortable quarters and proper equipment, and this took most of the night of our arrival.

Our prompt departure for the front was signalized by much enthusiasm, and thousands gathered at the depot to see the embarkation of volunteers. Although untrained, and unused to matters military, they were a fine looking body of men. Young, active, enthusiastic, and stirred to the deepest patriotism, they manifested an eagerness to get to the rendezvous that was a true forerunner of the bravery and efficiency which they afterward showed in action, and of the material of which they were composed. These qualities were evident no less in the hospital than on the field, and, as later, the more sombre side of war brought them under my ministrations, there was even the greater reason to admire their innate manhood and bravery. There had been little time for medical examinations as the enrollment proceeded. All who responded to the call for volunteers, and were not obviously unfitted from physical causes to serve, were allowed to enlist. As a natural consequence, quite a number who were really incapacitated to undergo the hardships of even camp life were carried away by their enthusiasm, and went with us. Later, when their sufferings exceeded the limit of human endurance, they reluctantly allowed me to know of their condition, and were promptly sent home. I recollect one or two cases



in which the condition in which I found them must have entailed untold agony in the discharge of their camp duties; yet never a murmur escaped them, until they fainted where they stood. Chronic conditions, which would have proved much more certainly fatal than a line of battle, existed and were being aggravated by marching and exposure. The record of these three months men of the Eighth Regiment is one of signal bravery of which all may well feel proud, and the laurel lies just as much on the brows of some that I sent home as does it upon other comrades whose better health enabled them to fill out the full term of service. The spirit indeed was willing; the flesh was weak, but what some whom I recall did endure, until forced to reveal their true condition, makes them worthy of true admiration.

The field and staff officers of the Eighth Regiment were: A. Emley, Wilkes-Barre, colonel; Samuel Bowman, Wilkes-Barre, lieutenant colonel; Joseph Phillips, Pittston, major; Joseph Wright, Wilkes-Barre, adjutant; Butler Dilley, Wilkes-Barre, quartermaster; Benjamin H. Throop, Scranton, surgeon; H. Carey Parry, Pottsville, assistant surgeon; Rev. T. P. Hunt, chaplain.

Company B, which was recruited at Moscow, was officered as follows: Hiram S. Travis, cap-

tain ; Frank Wambacker, first lieutenant ; Sanford G. Coghlizer, second lieutenant ; Jacob Swartz, first sergeant ; John F. Saylor, second sergeant ; John W. Fike, third sergeant ; Delton F. Miller, fourth sergeant ; Benj. J. Stephens, first corporal ; David Weldy, second corporal ; George Weldy, third corporal ; Warren Beemer, fourth corporal ; Paul Debler and William Miller, musicians.

The officers of Company E., of Scranton, were : John M'Casey, captain ; John O'Grady, first lieutenant ; Michael O'Harra, second lieutenant ; Anthony Loftus, first sergeant ; James Howley, second sergeant ; Francis Mahon, third sergeant ; Morris O'Brien, fourth sergeant ; John Lanagan, first corporal ; Richard Lanagan, second corporal ; Richard Fitzgerald, third corporal ; John Gerry, fourth corporal ; Peter Pennypacker and John Hartline, musicians.

The officers of Company H, which was also a Scranton company, were : Henry W. Derby, captain ; Beaton Smith, Jr., first lieutenant ; William D. Snyder, second lieutenant ; Thomas Edmonds, first sergeant ; Henry Derris, second sergeant ; Charles Kerr, third sergeant ; Joseph R. Shultz, fourth sergeant ; Israel Ruth, first corporal ; William Bryden, second corporal ; Monroe Koch, third corporal ; William Booth, fourth corporal.

Comfortably stowed away in a special train, amid the huzzas of the crowd, and the blare of martial music, we were whirled away with scarce time to say more than one fond adieu, and left to think of the loved ones left behind. There was little time even for this. All along the line, patriotic people were at every station to greet us. Ladies thronged the platforms at every stop, and men cheered heartily as the noble women of each town came to the car windows to give the boys cake, coffee and other refreshments, and their blessings and "God speed" beside. So the day wore on. When we reached Harrisburg, an aid was waiting to conduct the companies to Camp Curtin, and after we had seen them comfortably settled for the night, Col. Meylert and I sought our own hotel.

While I had made up my mind to go wherever I could best serve my country, it had seemed to me that I could be of more service just at that time, in securing a systematic organization at home, which should contribute a steady supply of men, supplies, and "the sinews" so long as they were necessary, for what we all felt then was a struggle of very brief duration; and, at the time of my departure from home, I had not the slightest idea of going to the front. In fact I had expected to keep engagements on various patriotic missions

as soon as I returned from camp. It was written otherwise, however, and some of my friends who had the ear of the powers that were, put up an unique scheme to have me appointed surgeon, knowing full well that I would not refuse any duty which might be assigned me so long as life and health held out.

On the morning after my arrival, I was standing with a group of gentlemen, on the camp ground, watching the evolutions of the troops, and awaiting the departure of my train for home, when my attention was called to an aid-de-camp who was going from one group of spectators to another, evidently inquiring for somebody. Someone in our party facetiously suggested that he probably wanted to make an arrest, and, just at that moment, he came up to us, and asked if any one in our party knew Dr. Throop, of Scranton.

"That is my name," I said, stepping forward. "Have I done anything very bad?"

"I don't know, Doctor," he answered, smiling, "but I have a commission here for you, and was instructed to deliver it before you left the city. Here it is, sir," and he handed me out the official document which made me surgeon of the Eighth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. Of course





*Ira Tripp*

IRA TRIPP



I qualified at once and went on with the regiment, remaining about four months, instead of a couple of days, as I had expected to do when I left Scranton ; but it was a service I gladly rendered then, and more fully appreciate the honor of now, because it was at the outset of the war, in a time of emergency, before anything like general co-operation was systematized, and hence was more valuable service than could it have been later on.

I appointed as my hospital steward, Mr. (afterwards Colonel) Ira Tripp,\* and in this appoint-

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\* Ira Tripp, the second son of Isaac and Catherine (La France) Tripp, was born January 6, 1814, in the old Township of Providence. Isaac Tripp, his great grandfather, moved from Providence, Rhode Island, and was one of the first settlers in the Wyoming Valley, locating at Wilkes-Barre in 1769. He was killed by the Indians while foddering his cattle. He was a Quaker in his religious notions, and in all of his intercourse with the Indians was always so kind and conciliatory that when, the year previous to his death, he was taken prisoner at Capouse, he was dismissed unharmed, having been properly painted as a precaution lest some other band of marauders should harm him. He was a man of much prominence in the colony, and was respected by all who knew him. The Indians were frequently asked by the British why Tripp was not slain, and the unvarying answer was, "Tripp is a good man." In his efforts to protect the interests of the Wyoming colony at Hartford, whither he had been sent to represent its grievances, he made himself inimical to the Tories, and a double reward was offered for his scalp. As he had forfeited the protection given him by Chief Capouse, by removing his war paint, and incurred hostility by his loyal struggles for the life of the young Republic, he was shot and scalped the first time he was seen. His son Isaac settled in the Lackawanna Valley about 1774, and took up a tract of about one thousand acres in what has since become the heart of the thriving community. It embraced a large portion of

ment lies an interesting bit of personal history. During the later years of his life few Scrantonians were better known, or more respected for their philanthropies than Tripp. He had ample means, and was generous with them. At the time of his appointment he had laid the foundations of his fortune wide and deep, but like many an other man, he had over-reached himself, and was in the hands of the sheriff as a consequence. All of his property was to have been put up at public vendue the week following, and, as prices were then, would, in all probability, have not much more than covered his debts. As it was, when the sale should have come off, it was represented to the authorities that he was in the defense of his country, and, in

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the Capouse Meadows and was later known as Tripp's Flats. Isaac Tripp raised a large family, all of whom lived to mature years, and settled in the vicinity. Ira Tripp, by gifts from his father, and by purchase, became the owner of a large portion of the original tract, on which he opened mines and made many improvements. He purchased the interest of his brothers in the homestead, and made himself a lovely home there, which was famous for its hospitality. Although his early life was spent on his father's farm, and the educational advantages that he enjoyed were limited to the common schools of Providence, Colonel Tripp was a man of wide general information, a keen observer, wide awake and thoroughly public-spirited. He was appointed by Governor Pollock, one of his aids-de-camp, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in the Eighth Regiment. He never sought political preferment, and although originally a Henry Clay Whig, he afterward became a staunch Republican. He possessed a frank, genial nature, which, added to his uniform courtesy and affability, made him a pleasant and entertaining companion to his hosts of warm friends. He died at the ripe age of eighty-four years, in September, 1890.

deference to a custom for which the precedent was laid during the Revolution, the whole matter was dropped until his return, his creditors sharing the same spirit of patriotism that had sent us all to the front. The delay was one that extended until the close of the war, for he was actively engaged in the common defense until that time; and during those three years, values increased so much that when affairs did come to a settlement, he was enabled to meet all of his obligations, and discharge them, and subsequently became a rich man and an honored citizen. During the establishment of the first hospital, Mr. Tripp was a most efficient aid, and the comfort of many there treated was in part due to his care and forethought. He was unremitting in his endeavors to meet every exigency, and showed himself a true patriot on every occasion.

On the evening of our organization, the regiment moved on its way to Chambersburg, where it was attached to the Third Brigade, First Division. It was at this point that I established the first hospital in an old hotel which stood close to Camp Slifer, and which was the most convenient quarters then obtainable. It was not by any means equal to the emergency, for in a few days there were thrown upon my tender mercies and those of my assistant surgeon, Dr. H. Carey Parry,

of Schuylkill, the surplus sick from ten thousand people, which could not be accommodated in other, even less adequate hospitals. The building was partly occupied by a printing office on the lower floor, and we were obliged to make our wards in the upper stories. Here we had twenty-one beds, only, although, as it was a three-story building, we might have accommodated more patients, had we been provided with the necessary cots. The various branches of the service had not been organized, and it was almost impossible to get medical supplies. Those which were furnished us were soon exhausted, and I was obliged to buy my medicines on credit from a local dealer until such a time, as I was instructed in the "red tape" measures then prevalent. These were simple enough when one was shown the way. I had to draw the rations of all the men who were in the hospital, and then trade off the quartermasters' stores, thus received, for drugs. In this way I managed to pay all my medicine bills except a few dollars, for which I had to give a personal note to be paid when I returned home.

This hospital was opened on the 23d of April, 1861. On the 7th of June, the regiment went to Green Castle Point. Surgeon Parry accompanied the men whilst I remained until those in the hospital were sufficiently recovered to be removed. It

was during this time that we had an epidemic of a sort of spotted fever, but so different from the usual cases that it stands almost alone. Some of the symptoms puzzled the most experienced, and a typical case, which I reported for Dr. Pancost, was pronounced a putrid fever, and was the subject of a monograph.

The difficulty of securing supplies was one that continued to harass the medical department more or less during most of the first year of the war, in spite of all the expedients that were adopted to meet the emergency. Whilst I was settling up the fiscal matters of the first hospital out of my own pocket, considerable correspondence passed between Surgeon-General Latta and myself, and as the result, I was able to draw the rations, as above stated, and convert them into such drugs and other necessities as were obtainable; but this did not by any means meet the emergency. The stock of medicines to be found in country stores, and small drug stores, designed to meet only the ordinary requirements of a small community, melted away like snow before an August sun, when drawn upon to meet the extraordinary conditions brought about by the unavoidable sickness among thousands of men utterly unused to the hardships of military service, say nothing of the casualties of the battlefield. Exigencies admitting of no delay

had to be met constantly. What was indicated, was frequently utterly unobtainable, and the best substitute at hand had to be used. It put the skill and knowledge of the enlisted medical profession to the severest tests, and yet, when the circumstances are taken into consideration, the mortality list from other than traumatic causes was surprisingly low. In surgical matters, aside from the limited supply of lint and bandages, there was little to embarrass those of us who had practiced in our early days, among sparsely settled districts like the Lackawanna Valley when I first came to it. After serving an apprenticeship of some years at amputating feet and legs with old razors and common hand-saws, tapping dropsies with goose-quills, and resorting to like unique, but necessary expedients, with success, it was a poor surgeon indeed, who, provided with a good set of amputating knives and appliances, could not dispose of the cases from the field with neatness and dispatch. Never did I appreciate the readiness and resourceful qualities that were developed by the episodes of my early practice more than whilst I served as an army surgeon. It was a training that made me in a measure independent of adverse circumstances—a condition which could not have been obtained in any other way.



Some of the friends of the brave boys with us seemed to think of the possibility of such conditions as I have depicted, and my case-book of the first hospital has, noted on the fly leaf, memoranda of the reception of a number of boxes sent to different privates. As I glance over them, and note the contents put up by loving hands, I realize afresh how welcome they were, and how much more good they did than even their donors ever dreamed. Some containing blankets, pillows, medicines and dainties came addressed to those who had already passed to the care of that Great Physician and were healed of all things; but these gifts were blessed many hundred fold in relieving the sufferers of the less fortunate living. Nothing came amiss in those first days of the great struggle. Two years later, when all the beneficent machinery of the Sanitary Commission and the Hospital Service had been systematically organized, and there was, in a measure, ample provision made to meet the wants of the wounded and suffering, such boxes were always most gratefully received; but in these early days of the war, when the magnitude of the struggle had not dawned on the country—when even the Chief Executive thought that with 75,000 men the rebellion could be put down in ninety days, and little or no systematic preparation had been made, such gifts were priceless indeed.

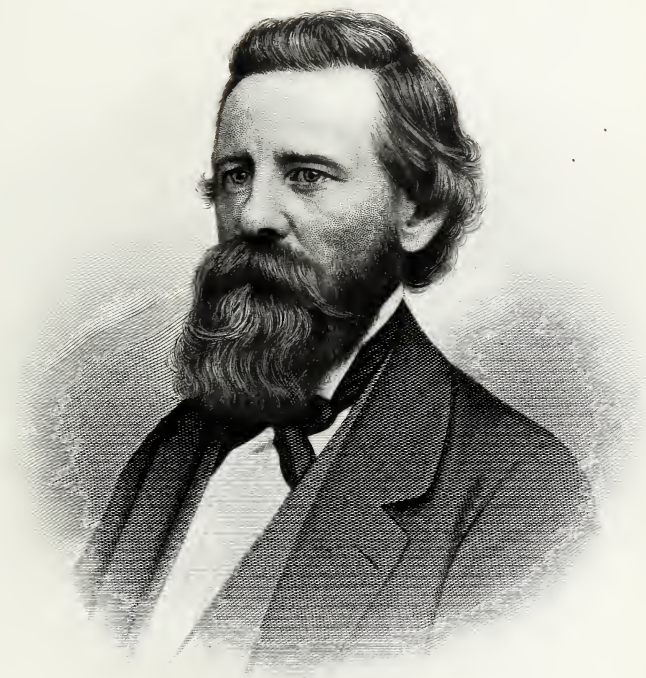
My next call to the field was after the terrible slaughter at Antietam, where the One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment did such brilliant service, and suffered such serious losses. The telegram conveying the news of the disaster, and of the loss of Col. Oakford, \* was read from the

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\* Colonel Richard A. Oakford was born in Philadelphia, Pa., December 8, 1820. He was educated in the schools of that city and at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. He was particularly apt in the study of languages, and spoke German and French, and read Spanish and Italian. After leaving school he studied engineering and was a good draughtsman. His health failing in the city, he came to the Wyoming Valley, where he married Frances C. Slocum. In 1859 and 1860 he traveled extensively through the South, and knew better than most Northerners the character of the people and the serious nature of the approaching conflict. At the breaking out of the war he was residing in Scranton, and at once volunteered with the three months' men. He was elected Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was commander of the post at Camp Curtin, at Harrisburg, until the regiment went to the front. He commanded the regiment throughout the campaign in front of Johnston, in the Shenandoah Valley.

On the mustering in of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, 15th of August, 1862, he was appointed Colonel. He was killed in the fight at Antietam on the 17th of September, 1862, as the regiment was going into action. He died gallantly at the head of his men, and his influence was felt by his entire command until the close of the war. In the official report of the battle sent on to Washington by Brigadier-General Nathaniel Kimball, the following paragraph makes special mention of his death: "Among the killed and wounded are many brave and gallant officers. Col. R. A. Oakford, One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania, was killed while leading his regiment. He was a brave officer, and died like a hero."

At a meeting of the commissioned officers of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment, held on the battlefield of Meyers' Springs, Friday morning, September 19, 1862, the following preamble and resolutions were reported through the committee appointed by the



*Price & Rice, Saratoga Pa*

*Wm. Tully*  
*Edw. A. Oakford*



pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church by Rev. Dr. Hickock, and at the close of the service a

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Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilcox, and consisting of Major Charles Albright and Captains Richard Stillwell and J. E. Shreve :

WHEREAS, Through the inscrutable wisdom of Almighty God, our regiment is in mourning for the loss of our Colonel, Richard A. Oakford, and many of our companions in arms, therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the death of Colonel Oakford, the country has lost a brave, gallant and fearless officer, an unblemished patriot and hero, and the regiment a Colonel whose experience and ability to command, decision of character, and kindly deportment to officers and privates inspired all with confidence and courage.

*Resolved*, That while we deeply deplore the death of Colonel Oakford, yet we rejoice that he led us to the field of battle, and that since death is his portion, he died in the greatest battle of the age, covered with honor and glory, and that his last command was, "*Advance! Advance!*" The clarion notes seem yet to ring in our ears. Colonel Oakford died in his place, with his face to the foe, like a Trojan hero.

*Resolved*, that we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, as a mark of the respect we bore towards the deceased.

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*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased, and that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to them.

*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be published in the papers of the several counties where the companies of the regiment were recruited.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL V. M. WILCOX,  
Chairman.

F. L. HITCHCOCK,  
Secretary.

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"Leaving aside his deserts as a citizen, and eminence as a member of the bar, we think that he has well earned himself a name worthy to be placed first among the lists of our country's heroes. He was one of the first to respond to the call of his country in the time of need, and, when it became necessary to muster the men of Luzerne, a second time in defense, he was again at their head to give evidence of his unflinching loyalty to the flag of his country. He sealed his patriotism with his blood, and as an acknowledgment of his worthy services, the citizens of Scranton and vicinity desire to give him a burial which is due him alone."—*The Scranton Republican*.

public meeting was held, and it was decided to send aid at once to the scene of the disaster. Messrs. Thomas Dickson and Charles Mattes were appointed a committee to wait on me, and they came directly to my home (I then lived in what was the old Battin place, on Washington Avenue) to tell me I was needed. When we got to the church, the desperate condition of our boys was recounted, and I, of course, volunteered to go on immediately. I gathered such supplies as were available, and started the following morning, arriving there on Tuesday, September 19, 1861. McClellan's army had withdrawn to Harper's Ferry, and I had some difficulty in finding the boys. They were in a terrible plight. Housed in a rude barracks made of rails and filled with straw, I found forty-five men almost devoid of medical attendance, too badly wounded to move and almost without care. The Assistant Surgeon who had been left behind to take care of them, was sick in his tent with a raging fever, and the hospital supplies had been carried forward with the army. In the midst of a dense forest, far away from supplies of every kind, with nothing to feed my patients on except hard tack, and that very scarce, and with only such assistance as could be gotten from the least injured, I established the Smoketown Field Hospital. They were pitiable conditions, indeed. I had to send the Assistant



Surgeon home at once, and then began to rearrange matters as best I might. I had gone by the way of Philadelphia, and secured such instruments as were required, and some drugs. Boxes contributed by the patriotic and loving hands at home made up the rest of all my available paraphernalia. The requirements were so great and the supplies were so slender that I was obliged to supplement my medicaments from the field, and cull such drugs as could be used to advantage. As soon as communication could be established with a wagon train, we were able to get some food supplies, and, considering the severity of the ordeal, the recoveries were phenomenal.\* I had for my steward

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\* The following extract from a letter of Rev. A. H. Schoonmaker, Chaplain of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment, to the *Scranton Republican*, describes the situation: "I found Dr. B. H. Throop moving around among the sufferers like a healing angel; and never were angels' visits more welcome than the sight of the Doctor appeared to be to the sufferers in the various wards through which we passed. From the smiling look and anxious inquiry, one could easily discover that the Doctor here, as well as at home, has the utmost confidence of the entire community in which he mingles.

"The prompt action taken by your community, in sending the Doctor to the assistance of the surgeons near the battlefield, at your expense, you have saved many lives, as well as many limbs, that would have been amputated by less experienced surgeons than Doctor Throop. I seriously doubt whether we have in the entire army a surgeon better adapted to army and hospital practice than Dr. B. H. Throop. We should think ourselves fortunate if we could secure him for surgeon of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment.

"At present our medical provisions are exceedingly deficient. The surgeon appointed never reported for duty, and one of the assistants

H. B. Benson, of Company C. The nurses were: Burton Fortrey, Company H; Aaron Rix, Company F; William Noble, Company G; Christian Kreigle, Jr., Company G; W. H. Coryall, Company A; Samuel Keen, Company F; George Hunt, Company A; Christian Harden and C. Blanchard. William Hess acted as cook.

Turning over my papers, I have come across a fragment which contains a list of some of the more important cases, which is as follows: George H. Hankins, Company H, gunshot through lumbar region; Hiram Cod, Company H., gunshot wound through eye and occiput; Obadiah Sherwood, Company K, resected the head of the humerus; William Frantz, Company F., resected shoulder; William B. Miner, Company B, ball in the lungs; George H. Kater, Company I, ball through femur with fracture; Roderick Jones, Company I, arm amputation; Clinton Gerald, Com-

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worked himself sick after the battle of Antietam, and is now home sick with a fever; the other is doing all he can with the facilities afforded him. He has scarcely had medicine enough to deal out a common cathartic, much less battle with the numerous diseases prevalent in the army. Requisitions for medicine were made twelve days ago, but the "red tape gentry" have not yet condescended to notice it, at least so far as to furnish what our suffering men need, and many of them are dying daily from their sheer neglect. What a misfortune it is that *shoulder straps* make so many consummate portable gas factories in the army. The *official* and *pompous dignity* of these men must be preserved if the whole army corps and Union be dissolved."

pany B, patella fractured by ball; Homer Elmen-  
dorf, Company I, billious remittant fever; Wm.  
B. Neese, Company A, resection of head of hum-  
erus; Miners Moyer, Company G, shot through  
the shoulder; Thomas Sprowl, Company G, re-  
section of head of humerus; Willoughby Coons,  
Company G, one ball made six holes in arm and  
shoulder; John Krans, Company H, ball in frontis;  
Martin Hower, Company K, shot through the  
lungs.

It was nearly six weeks before the patients were  
in such condition as warranted either their re-  
moval to their homes, or my withdrawal from ac-  
tive service in the field, and give charge of the  
hospital to my assistants. Meanwhile Col. Wil-  
cox had been taken very ill at Harper's Ferry, and I  
was sent for to go and see him. I remained there  
several days, and when his condition permitted,  
returned to the hospital and arranged for its vaca-  
tion, arriving home after eight weeks of most ex-  
haustive service. I should have remained longer,  
perhaps, had not a naturally vigorous constitution  
succumbed to the continued strain and completely  
prostrated me, so that it was necessary to repair at  
once to the seaside for recuperation. By the time  
that I was again fit for service, all the engage-  
ments accessible from this point, in which our  
volunteers were especially dangerously participants

were over, and it was not long until the news of the surrender proclaimed the war at an end. My next hospital service was of a local and more pacific character, and is referred to in another portion of these memoirs.



## CHAPTER THIRTEENTH.

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### FINANCIAL MATTERS.

First Banking Facilities — Mason, Meylert & Co. — Winton's Venture — The First National Bank — The Second National Bank — Scranton Trust Company and Savings Bank — Mechanics' and Miners' Co-operative Loan Association — Scranton Trust Company and Savings Bank — Scranton City Bank — Traders' National Bank — Dime Deposit and Savings Bank — Building and Loan and Fire Insurance Associations.

**W**HILE the founding of Scranton, as well as its unbroken record of prosperity, is directly traceable to its leading industries, no co-ordinate branch of business can claim a more important place in its development than that occupied by its financial and fiducial institutions. That it has passed successfully through several monetary crisis, and has always kept its credit unimpaired, is due, in a great measure, to the character of the men who have been behind its banks, and the scrupulous honesty combined with liberal, though conservative management, that has characterized their conduct. Its

solvency as a city is to-day a matter of honest local pride, and its institutions have the confidence of business men the country over. This is due the fact that it has never been subjected to the widespread financial disaster that always follows in the wake of reckless or incompetent bank management. It has a proper soubriquet, and certainly reflects one of the most definitely marked characteristics of its founders, when it is known as "Solid Scranton."

When I first knew it, the nearest banking facilities were at Wilkes-Barre, which was then the commercial centre of this entire region. The system of long credits was prevalent, and such accommodation in the way of ready cash as was necessary for the transaction of business was supplied by store-keepers and others who were best off in this world's goods. There was, indeed, little ready money required. Barter and interchange of commodities was everywhere prevalent, and little circulating medium was required.

Dr. Hollister narrates the fact that in the very early days whiskey was a common medium of exchange, as it was in all new communities in the pioneer days. Of course as the new industries brought an increase of population, this gradually disappeared, and company orders paid to the many



men employed by the Delaware & Hudson, and the other companies began to come in circulation. These were for many years used much as bank bills are now-a-days, and some of the first fees which I received were in this form, and were convertible into supplies from the commissaries on which they were drawn. After the establishment of the iron works such paper became even more common, and my early accounts with the company were nearly all collected in this way.

It was early in the fifties that we had one of the first private banking houses, and this was established on Penn Avenue, near the St. Charles Hotel, by Mr. W. W. Winton, and was carried on successfully by him until it was merged into the Second National Bank at a much later period. This, too, was the outcome of his wisdom and business sagacity, and was founded at a time when it required the utmost confidence in a new principle, and in the perpetuity of a government against which the bristling bayonets and frowning cannon of the Confederacy were directed, and were causing consternation and terror throughout the whole North. Winton, who was born in New York State, and who came to Providence with his father at an early day, had commenced life as a village school teacher, boarding around, and receiving twelve dollars a month. Later he went

into the lumber business for a while, then returned to teaching, and lastly read law in Danville. He had various vicissitudes in business, both in this section and New York, until 1850, when he returned to Scranton and embarked in coal and banking. He organized, in 1865, the First National Bank of Providence, which was merged into the Second National Bank of Scranton, at a later period, and subsequently a private bank to take its place, under the firm name of Winton, Clark & Co., which in time became the Citizens' & Miners' Savings Bank. Mr. Winton was untiring in his industry as a banker, and had the prosperity of the valley thoroughly at heart. He was for many years a leader in many enterprises, and, on one occasion, when a disastrous run was threatened all the banks of the city, was selected by his colleagues to go to New York to make such arrangements for currency as would meet the emergency. So successfully did he accomplish his mission that all trouble was averted, and the promptness of the banks to meet all demands soon pacified all frightened depositors.

The first banking house in the city was that of Meylert, Mason & Company, which opened a business on the corner of Wyoming Avenue and Center Street, May 10, 1855. Its projectors were men of means, enterprise and ability, and took

an interest in all matters that could advance the interests of the then rapidly developing city. They were successful from the outset, and five years after they had made a beginning, erected the building now occupied by the Scranton Savings Bank, which was then one of the most imposing commercial structures in the city. There were two or three changes in the style of the firm, which continued business until about 1864, the partners being Gordon F. Mason, Michale and A. F. Meylert, The "Meylert Banking House," as it was known throughout all the valley, was purchased by the Savings Bank in 1867.

It was during the service of Hon. George Sanderson as State Senator that he made the acquaintance of Col. George W. Scranton, and was induced by him to remove to Scranton and make this the future field of his activities. Mr. Sanderson came with his family in the spring of 1855, and, in the November following, opened a banking business in a small wooden building just above the Wyoming House, afterward occupied by the late Thomas Parrott as a tailoring establishment. The style of the firm was George Sanderson & Company, the other partner being Mr. Burton Kingsbury, whose interests were represented by his son, Mr. George S. Kingsbury. In a few years the business of the firm had so increased

that larger and better quarters were necessary, and the bank was removed to a building occupying the site of the present Safe Deposit Company. This was destroyed by fire in 1863, and a much handsomer structure arose on its ruins without interruption to business. On the death of Mr. Kingsbury, Sr., it was decided to enlarge the capital and increase the business, which was organized as the Lackawanna Valley Bank, with the following officers and directors: George Sanderson, president; J. Gardner Sanderson, vice president; George S. Kingsbury, cashier; A. Minor Renshaw, teller; George Sanderson, George S. Kingsbury, J. Gardner Sanderson, Charles DuPont Breck and Dr. R. A. Squires, directors. In addition to carrying on a general banking business, it also maintained a general savings department, and was a model institution of the decade before its reorganization, which occurred in 1881, when a number of new directors and officers came into power. This institution continued to do a thriving business until 1887, when it was merged into the Lackawanna Trust and Safe Deposit Company, to accommodate which, the old banking house was remodeled, being fitted up with private vaults of the most modern construction. The institution receives trust funds, and is authorized to act as administrator, executor, guardian, trustee, agent, receiver and assignee, by appointment of

Court and power of attorney. It has at present about \$50,000 undivided surplus.

On May 30, 1863, The First National Bank was organized with a paid up capital of \$200,000. Joseph H. Scranton was president, J. J. Albright, vice president; William Cushing, cashier, and Joseph H. Scranton, Thomas Dickson, John Brisbin, Joseph J. Albright and J. C. Platt, directors. In 1863, Mr. Brisbin removed to New York City, and George L. Dickson was selected as a director in his stead. Two years later, Mr. Cushing resigned as cashier, and James A. Linen was elected in his stead. From time to time, death and removals have made some changes in the officers and directory, and George L. Dickson is the only one of those now living who were with the bank in its early history and still remains interested in it. It has been one of the best paying financial investments in the city, having paid ten per cent. dividends from the time of its organization up to 1869; twelve per cent. from that year up to 1872; the two following years fourteen per cent., and since that time, about twenty per cent. The following are the present officers: James A. Linen, president; George L. Dickson, vice president; Isaac Post, cashier; George L. Dickson, W. R. Storrs, W. W. Scranton, T. F. Torrey, James Blair, W. F. Hallstead, John Jermyn and James

A. Linen, directors. The bank is one of the strongest in the country, as well as one of the most profitable to its stockholders. The dividends paid since it was organized have been as follows :

From 1863 to 1869 . . .	10 per cent. per annum.
“ 1868 to 1873 . . .	12 “ “ “
“ 1873 to 1874 . . .	16 “ “ “
“ 1894 to 1889 . . .	20 “ “ “
“ 1889 to 1892 . . .	24 “ “ “
“ 1892 to 1894 . . .	31 “ “ “

The following is the statement of the U. S. Comptroller's Call, Monday, March 6, 1893.

## RESOURCES :

Loans and Discounts . . . . .	\$1,732,683.56
U. S. Bonds. . . . .	50,000.00
Bonds and other Securities . . . . .	3,056,023.85
Bank Building. . . . .	30,000.00
Overdrafts. . . . .	1,277.22
Expenses and Taxes Paid. . . . .	4,495.20
Due from Treasurer U. S. . . . .	4,250.00
Due from Banks . . . . .	76,482.04
Cash in Bank and with Reserve Agents . . . . .	864,125.10
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	\$5,819,336.97

## LIABILITIES.

Capital . . . . .	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus . . . . .	630,000.00
Undivided Profits. . . . .	112,689.88
Circulation. . . . .	45,000.00
Dividends Unpaid . . . . .	392.00
Due Banks. . . . .	84,648.08
Individual Deposits. . . . .	4,746,607.01
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	\$5,819,336.97



The Second National Bank was organized September 10, 1863, with T. F. Hunt as president; Dr. John Wilson, vice president, and W. W. Winton, cashier. Mr. Hunt was superseded as president by Mr. Winton, in 1865, and Mr. P. C. Carling became cashier, serving until the early part of 1870, when ill-health caused his resignation, and he was succeeded by E. R. Mills. The institution, which was, as has been stated, the outgrowth of the private banking establishment of Winton & Co., first began business on Penn Avenue, having in its inception a capital of about \$50,000. Four years later it was decided to increase the capital by consolidation with The First National Bank of Providence, and as the result of that re-organization, the following officers and directors were elected: W. W. Winton, president; John Wilson, vice president; P. C. Carling, cashier; W. W. Winton, W. P. Darling, J. T. Fellows, Ira Tripp, Henry Griffin and W. H. Heath, directors. The lots for the fine building at the corner of Penn and Lackawanna Avenues were purchased in June, 1870, and the building was completed and ready for occupancy a year later. On Friday, May 31, 1878, a reduction of deposits, and the inability of the bank to realize upon its assets, caused it to close its doors. Most of the stock was owned by W. W. Winton and his family, and the general depression then prevailing, and the consequent shrinkage of real

estate values, had caused them to lose heavily. The depositors were assured by the President that they would not lose anything, as the capital stock was \$200,000, the surplus \$70,000, and the undivided profits \$10,000, and when the affairs of the bank were examined by Bank Examiner Drew, he found them in good condition, and said that the institution would pay its depositors in full, with interest, which was finally done. To avoid the expense of a receiver, the bank went into voluntary liquidation, and had paid off about \$60,000 of its liabilities, when litigation, instituted by some of the depositors, who had become impatient, necessitated the appointing of George L. Goodale, of New York, as receiver, who completed the disposition of its affairs in 1886.

The next banking institution to be chartered was the Scranton Savings Bank, which was given authority to do business on February 28, 1867. It commenced business at 309 Lackawanna Avenue in October of the same year. The officers on organization were: James Blair, president; James Archbald, vice president; Oscar C. Moore, cashier, and James Archbald, J. L. Sutphin, Daniel Howell, Sanford Grant, T. F. Hunt, George Fisher, and James S. Slocum, directors and trustees. Although authorized by its charter to employ a much larger amount, the actual cash cap-

ital of the institution at the time of organization was \$50,000, and remained at that figure until 1878, when it was increased to \$100,000. It continued business on Lackawanna Avenue for two years, and then purchased the property on Wyoming Avenue erected by Gen. Meylert for his banking business. There have been but few changes in its officers since its organization. Mr. Moore remained its cashier until 1876, when he was succeeded by George H. Birdsall, who in turn gave place to H. A. Vail, on whose death, in 1881, H. C. Shafer was elected. The bank is one that has added much to the financial strength of the city, and holds a prominent place among the institutions of the State. The present officers and directors are as follows: James Blair, president; S. B. Price, vice president; H. C. Shafer, cashier; James Blair, James Archbald, DeWitt C. Blair, Jas. W. Oakford, Wm. F. Kiesel, Geo. H. Catlin, S. B. Price, A. B. Blair, W. D. Kennedy and Frank M. Spencer, directors.

On April 15, 1869, the Scranton Trust Company and Savings Bank was chartered, and was organized at the beginning of the following year with H. S. Pierce, president; Thomas Dickson, vice president; W. W. Winton, treasurer; Horace B. Phelps, secretary, and H. S. Pierce, Thomas Dickson, Joseph H. Scranton, W. W. Winton, H. B. Phelps, Ira Tripp and John Brisbin, di-

rectors. It had an authorized capital stock of \$500,000 of which \$100,000 was paid in, and erected, during the following year, the building now used by John Jermyn as offices, as its banking house, at a cost of \$8,500. After doing a profitable business for a number of years, the stringency of the times, and a change of a trend of investment caused it to go into voluntary liquidation. At a meeting of the Board of Directors, a report from the President, H. S. Pierce, set forth the fact that the experiences of the past two years had forced the conclusion that the business could no longer be profitably maintained. The continued depression in business had caused many to withdraw their deposits, and the increasing popularity of the four per cent. government loans caused new depositors to make their investments in that way. The institution was well able to pay its depositors in full, as the statement made at the close of the bank's business year, January 18, 1879, showed an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to over \$67,000. In April, 1879, Thomas Canavan, one of the depositors, becoming dissatisfied for some reason, brought an action in equity, praying for an injunction to prevent the bank from doing any further business, and asking the appointment of a receiver. A temporary injunction was granted, and the company made an assignment to its President, with instruction to

close up its affairs in accordance with the law governing such matters.

The suit of Mr. Canavan was subsequently withdrawn, and James A. Linen and George Fuller were made the assignees, and finally wound up the business in 1876.

Hon. John Handley came to Scranton from Virginia, in 1860, and soon afterward opened the private banking house of John Handley & Co. Ten years later, that was succeeded by the Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank of Scranton, organized under the State law, with a paid-up capital of \$125,000, and an authorized one of \$500,000. The first officers and directors were: John Handley, president; J. C. Burgess, vice president; W. H. Fuller, cashier; John Handley, Daniel Howell, Thomas Moore, T. D. Richards, Patrick McCann, Edward Jones, D. B. Brainard, J. H. Gunster, M. M. Kearney, D. B. Oakes and Peter Burshell, directors. In 1873 the paid up capital was increased to \$250,000. The election of Mr. Handley to the judgeship was the cause of his resignation from the presidency, and he was succeeded by Gen. Elisha Phinney, at whose removal from the city Daniel Howell succeeded to the office, to be followed by Edward Jones, and later, on his decease, by the present incumbent. There have

been several changes in the officers and directory, the complete list of which, up to date, is as follows: James J. Williams, president; James Jordan, vice president; C. W. Gunster, cashier; P. O'Malley, teller; James J. Williams, J. Jordan, B. E. Leonard, A. J. Casey and Thomas E. Jones, directors.

The Third National Bank was organized in 1872, with a paid up capital of \$200,000, and commenced business at 504 Lackawanna Avenue, April 16, 1872. The directors and officers were as follows: Alfred Hand, president; George H. Catlin, vice president; Edward C. Lynde, secretary and temporary cashier; Alfred Hand, John Jermyn, Lewis Pughe, J. A. Scranton, Henry M. Boies, William Matthews, George H. Catlin, James Archbald, William Connell, Frederick W. Gunster and Edward C. Lynde, directors. N. H. Shafer was soon afterwards elected cashier. In July of the same year the business was removed to the offices at present occupied by the Scranton Gas and Water Company, where the business was conducted until November 1, 1877, when the bank completed its own building, which has subsequently been much enlarged and improved, and is now one of the best appointed counting rooms in the city. Upon the election of Hon. Justice Hand to the president judgeship of Lackawanna County, he,



of course, resigned the presidency of the bank, and at the next annual meeting of the stockholders, William Connell was selected for the place. In 1882 Mr. Shafer resigned, and W. H. Peck, the present cashier, assumed his duties. There have also been some few changes in the directory, caused by death and other circumstances. The bank has been one of the most prosperous in the city, as will be seen by the statement made to the Comptroller of the Currency in February, 1894:

## RESOURCES.

Loans. . . . .	\$1,216,340.00
Overdrafts. . . . .	947.37
United States Bonds . . . . .	80,000.00
Other Bonds. . . . .	513,578.75
Banking House. . . . .	28,074.46
Premiums on U. S. Bonds. . . . .	943.75
Due from U. S. Treasurer. . . . .	7,600.00
Due from Banks . . . . .	208,416.73
Cash . . . . .	146,649.54
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	\$2,202,550.60

## LIABILITIES.

Capital . . . . .	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus. . . . .	240,000.00
Undivided Profits. . . . .	56,189.06
Circulation. . . . .	72,000.00
Dividends Unpaid . . . . .	334.50
Deposits. . . . .	1,564,660.54
Due to Banks . . . . .	69,366.50
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	\$2,202 550 60

The present officers and directors are as follows : William Connell, president ; George H. Catlin, vice president; William H. Peck, cashier; William Connell, George H. Catlin, Alfred Hand, James Archbald, Henry Belin, Jr., William T. Smith and Luther Keller, directors.

The Citizens' and Miners' Savings Bank and Trust Company was organized at Providence, and established Monday, May 6, 1872, when \$100,000 stock was subscribed. It opened for business in the rooms formerly occupied by Winton, Clarke & Co., in July of the following year. It had been created by a special charter granted by the Legislature, and at the time that its doors were opened for business, one half of the stock subscribed had been paid in. The first officers were: W. W. Winton, president; E. W. Weston, vice president; D. C. Lake, cashier; and W. W. Winton, E. W. Weston, H. O. Silkman, Isaac Dean, S. Osterhout, D. C. Lake and J. B. Gillespie, directors. The general depression of 1878 and 1879, and the suspension of the Second National and the Trust and Savings Banks, which had the effect of impairing public confidence in banking institutions of all kinds to a certain extent, so curtailed deposits and augmented withdrawals, that it was determined to suspend payment from April 11 of that year, at least until such a time as collections could be

made, and the outlook became brighter. The statement made at that time showed a total of \$128,734.29 and an excess over liabilities of \$9,916.62.

What is now the West Side Bank of Hyde Park, was organized as the Mechanics' and Miners' Co-operative Loan Association, on December 11, 1873, with George Sanderson president and J. Gardner Sanderson secretary and treasurer. In April, 1874, the name of the association was changed to the Miners' and Mechanics' Loan and Banking Association, and subsequently, in 1890, to the West Side Bank. It has had a number of changes in officership and directory. They are at present composed of the following gentlemen: B. Hughes, president; R. G. Brooks, vice president; Thomas D. Davis, secretary; A. B. Eynon, cashier; B. Hughes, R. G. Brooks, W. W. Patterson, D. M. Jones, Thomas D. Davis, R. Nichols, W. Gaylord Thomas, John Gordon and W. R. Williams, directors.

The Scranton Savings Bank and Trust Company was organized December 13, 1873, with a capital of \$50,000, and commenced business on the tenth of the following June at its present banking house, 428 Lackawanna Avenue. The following were the first officers and directors: E. N. Wil-

lard, president; Hon. John Handley and Moses Whitty, vice presidents; L. A. Watres, cashier; and the other directors, John Handley, E. A. Corey, F. D. Collins, U. M. Stowers and Thomas Phillips. There have been some changes by death and resignation. The following are its officers: E. N. Willard, president; Wm. M. Silkman, vice president; A. H. Christy, cashier; Wm. M. Silkman, E. N. Willard, M. J. Wilson, E. P. Kingsbury, O. S. Johnson, L. A. Watres and August Robinson, directors.

The Scranton City Bank began business September 29, 1873, having been organized the June previous with the following officers: Charles H. Schadt, president; Victor Koch, vice-president; Joseph H. Gunster, cashier; N. G. Goodman, secretary, and the following additional as directors: Philip Robinson, John Zeidler, David Ackerman, Michael Miller, Charles Tropp, C. D. Neuffer and Charles Fisher. After a number of years it was reorganized with B. H. Throop, M. D., president; George A. Jessup, vice president; Henry Armburst, Victor Koch, Charles Tropp, Morris Goldsmith and Edward Merrifield the other directors. In May, 1889, J. E. Payfair, who was then proprietor of the Forest House, failed. It was found through this that the bank held \$6,000 worth of his paper with no other security than a life insurance policy, and

this led to a close examination of the methods which had been pursued. An investigation of the books revealed several similar loose transactions and also the further fact that the vice-president had used up about \$135,000 of the bank's funds in the purchase of coal lands. This condition of affairs made it necessary to assign, and J. H. Gunster was appointed trustee. After considerable litigation the affairs of the concern were wound up.

The Traders' National Bank commenced business in January, 1890, with a capital of \$250,000, locating in the quarters formerly occupied by the Scranton City Bank, with Samuel Hines, president; W. W. Watson, vice president; A. B. Williams, cashier; and other directors, James M. Everhart, J. J. Jermyn, I. A. Finch, P. B. Finley, C. P. Mathews, John T. Porter and M. S. Kemmerer.

The Dime Deposit and Savings Bank commenced operations in the summer of 1890, and has built up a fine business. Its officers are, James P. Dickson, President; Charles DuPont Breck, vice president; H. G. Dunham, cashier; other directors, L. N. Kramer, Charles Schlager, L. Francois, T. B. Hoban, E. J. Lynett, C. Comegys and R. G. Brooks. The handsome building that has been erected on the corner of Wyoming Avenue

and Spruce Street is one of the ornaments of the city.

Much has been done for the up-building of the city by the organization of local building associations. The first, which was established in 1867, was quite appropriately named "The Pioneer." It was fairly successful for some time, but passed out of existence about twenty years ago. The Scranton Building Association was the next candidate for public favor, and came on the scene a year or two after The Pioneer. It, too, has passed out of existence. Since that time, half a dozen others have been started, and several of them have been profitable investments for the shareholders. Three or four are now in active operation, and are popular, although the foreign companies, which are represented here in great numbers, do by far the largest part of the advancing.

Scranton has had also a number of local insurance companies, which, from time to time, have been popular. The only one of note which now survives, is the Cambrian Mutual, of Hyde Park, which was established in 1861, and has done a large and successful business. Its officers are all prominent and influential men of the West Side, and the reports of the company, published from time to time in the papers show that it is prosperous.



## CHAPTER FOURTEENTH.

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### MATTERS TRANSPORTATIONAL.

Early Transportation in the Valley—The First Railroad Project—The First Rail Outlet—Beginning of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western—Opening of the Road Celebrated—A Red-Letter Day and Night in Scranton—Other Railroad Enterprises of the Valley—Local Rapid Transit—The First Street Railway—Extension of the System—Scranton's Present Advantages.

LOCAL historians seem to agree that as early as 1817 some interest had been attracted toward the sparsely settled region lying between Easton, which was the county seat of Northampton County, and the Lackawanna Valley. A number of projects for opening up the territory, which was then known to be available only as an agricultural district were then formulated. The active mind of Maurice Wurts had not comprehended the mineral wealth that lay beneath its surface, nor had there been any adequate conception of the geographical advantages it possessed as a coming manufacturing center. Some

of the earliest projects sank into oblivion without leaving more than a tradition of their ephemeral existence, and no details of the plans which they contemplated. Others go into history as more definite conceptions, and one or two possess a special interest because they were the foundation stones of one of the most potent factors in the history of Scranton's development. The first of these was what is known as "The Drinker Railroad," which was chartered as the Susquehanna and Delaware Canal and Railroad Company, with an approval dated April 3, 1826. This contemplated a transportation line partly of horse railroad and planes, and partly a canal. It is clearly evident that it was to be a public highway on which each one could use his own vehicle, as a clause in the charter provides that toll houses were to be established along the line, collectors appointed, and that each driver or conductor of "such wagon, carriage or conveyance, boat or raft, was to give the collectors notice of their approach to said toll houses by blowing a trumpet or horn."

Among those interested in the project were Henry W. Drinker, William Henry, David Scott, Jacob D. Stroud, Daniel Stroud, James N. Porter, A. E. Brown, S. Stokes and John Coolbaugh, all of whom are mentioned as commissioners. While the plan was never more than discussed, and

hardly can be said to have been even practically formulated for many years, it served to keep alive in this region the first germs of enterprise of which there is any record, and finally culminated in a system far more complete than was ever dreamed of by its projectors.

An enterprise that was about contemporaneous was what was known originally as the "Meridith Road," the projector of which, Thomas Meridith, conceived the idea of a route leading from the mouth of Leggett's Creek to Great Bend, a point to which it was supposed that the Susquehanna would eventually be made navigable. This was duly surveyed by James Seymour, four years after it had been chartered, or in 1836. During the next few years slack water navigation and the construction of the North Branch Canal with its various feeders attracted much attention and both railroad projects languished in public estimation as the plans for improving the Lackawanna River, heretofore referred to, were actively discussed.

A plan that had been brought about by some of the commissioners of the "Drinker Railroad" to have that route put into operation by English capital, which Lord Charles Augustus Murray, Earl of Dunmore, had promised to obtain, fell through about 1846, and it was not until three years later

that the projectors of the iron works, having become convinced that the only hope of success was to have a direct and economical outlet to the markets, took up the discarded threads and evolved a tangible plan for the construction of a road. The final success of this child of former projects was due to the advent of Col. George W. Scranton more than to any other person. His active brain grasped at once the advantages to be derived from such a road, operated, not on the co-operative plan, but thoroughly equipped with its own rolling stock and prepared to carry both freight and passengers. At his suggestion the gravity system was abandoned and a survey was made of a locomotive route. The charter of the Leggett's Gap road was kept alive and this was purchased. The attention of capitalists was then called to the investment, and to the profits that would undoubtedly accrue from the amount of freight which the iron works would furnish from the outset. In almost every case the reply was, that if they invested in the road, they wanted an interest in the iron works also. This was finally agreed to and the subscriptions were taken with the understanding that they were to carry a pro rata interest in the iron works, the partners of which were to surrender for the same amount of railroad stock. On this basis the entire line was put into running order by the pro-

prietors of the iron works, Colonel Scranton having the general supervision of the work.

The first meeting of the commissions was held at Kressler's Hotel, March 7, 1849, when fifty-six individuals subscribed for 5,026 shares, on which ten per cent. was paid in. Proper legislation to enable the road, under its charter, to use locomotives was speedily obtained, and on January 2, 1850, the first meeting of the stockholders was held and the following officers were elected: John J. Phelps, president; Selden T. Scranton, treasurer; Charles F. Mattes, secretary. Managers: John I. Blair, Henry W. Drinker, J. C. Platt, Jeremiah Clarke, Andrew Bedford, George W. Scranton, Joseph B. Scranton, Fred R. Griffin, Daniel S. Miller and Charles S. Fuller.

The work of constructing the road was begun as soon as practicable. Mr. Peter Jones, of New Hampshire, was engaged by Colonel Scranton to take immediate charge. He was a man experienced in such matters, and had just completed the Cayuga and Susquehanna Railroad from Owego to Ithaca. He arrived in Harrison with a force of men and all the necessary appliances on the thirtieth of April, 1850, and grading was begun a few days after.

During the months which followed the first election a very considerable sum was added to the amount of capital which had been subscribed, and as a result nearly all of the officers resigned. In their places were elected Roswell Sprague, of New York, as treasurer; Henry Hotchkiss, of New Haven, as secretary; and on the board of managers there remained but four of the original members. These were George W. Scranton, John I. Blair, Fred R. Griffin and D. S. Miller. In the place of the others were elected John Howland, William E. Dodge, Edward Mowrey, Drake Mills, Moses W. Scott, all of New York, and J. B. Williams, of Ithaca. Col. George W. Scranton was appointed general manager on the following day and, with few interruptions, the road was pushed to completion under his energetic supervision, and was ready for general traffic on October 20, 1851. Five days previous to this a party of ladies and gentlemen made the initial trip over the road from Great Bend to Scranton in about two and a half hours. They were received by a committee of citizens, of which I had the honor to be chairman, and were escorted over the works and the site of the promising city, and were entertained in the most hospitable manner. The event, as may well be imagined, was celebrated as a general holiday and people came from all the country round to examine the first full-fledged passenger train that most of them



had ever beheld. It was not much more of a curiosity, however, than was the first coal train, which left the city for Ithaca on the day following. It indeed marked a new era of prosperity for the valley.

By an act of the Legislature, approved in April, 1851, the corporate name of the road was changed from the Leggitt's Gap Railroad to the Lackawanna and Western Railroad. This represents what is now the northern division of the road.

Meanwhile, another of the plans that had originated among the Messrs. Scranton was quietly maturing. In April, 1849, a charter had been granted for the Delaware and Cobb's Gap Railroad, which was to extend from the Delaware River and follow nearly the line of the old Drinker route. The commissioners had held a meeting in Stroudsburg in October, 1850, and 18,000 shares had been subscribed for, principally by the same capitalists who were interested in the road then under construction. A preliminary survey of the road was begun by Mr. E. McNeil on the eighth of April, 1851. The two roads were merged into one by an act of the Legislature approved March 11, 1853, under the name of Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. The officers of the new road were elected in December following, and were George

W. Scranton, president ; John I. Blair, treasurer ; Charles F. Mattes, secretary ; John J. Phelps, William E. Dodge, T. W. Gale, L. L. Sturges, John I. Blair, S. T. Scranton, J. H. Scranton, J. C. Platt, H. W. Nicholson, James M. Porter, James H. Stroud and Franklin Starbourn, directors. The work of constructing the southern division was prosecuted rapidly and by the fifteenth of May, 1856, a passenger train began regular trips, first to Hampton and afterward to Delaware Station, from whence a stage connected with the New Jersey Central to both New York and Philadelphia. The formal opening of the road took place on the twenty-seventh of the same month and was celebrated by an excursion of the officers and their friends, from New York to Scranton, over the New Jersey Central to New Hampton, and thence to this city. Scranton celebrated the event with due eclat, and it was an occasion that well warranted all of the congratulations that were then indulged in. The importance of the enterprise which had been completed was not confined to this city, but attracted much attention in New York, as is evidenced by the fact that the New York *Evening Express* of the date, May 29, 1856, devotes over four columns to the details of the trip and the local celebration. The following account is condensed from a copy of that issue now in my possession :

The celebration of the new line reaching from Elizabeth, N. J., inward through the great Lackawanna Valley—the West —“The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad”—took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth inst. Upwards of two hundred invited guests proceeded from pier No. 2, North River, in the steamer Wyoming, and over the Jersey Central Railroad to to the junction with the newly opened Warren Railroad and its continuation up the Lackawanna Valley to Scranton. The day was exceedingly favorable, affording the utmost gratification to the guests, as well in the inspection of their splendid wide-gauge structure, with its solid embankments, oak built bridges, granite viaducts and enormous tunnels, as in the magnificent scenery, hospitable cheer and enthusiastic reception throughout the whole triumph of their progress.

The party started at half past seven in the morning and reached Scranton sometime before sundown. When the train shot out from the Roaring Brook ravine and first entered the town of Scranton, the guests were honored with a salute of cannon. The bells of the town were rung, and a large mass of the population, headed by the town officers, were drawn up at the depot for a formal reception. The most curious portion of this array was the turn-out of steam engines, filed along the road, from which three terrific, hill-splitting shrieks were sent up in salute, which, as they died away in the ravines, were renewed from all the multitude of their fellow demons of the shafts and tunnels. The clamorous shouts of welcome from the people of Scranton made a weak contrast to this fearful neighing of the “iron steeds.”

Dr. B. H. Throop, speaking for the citizens of Scranton, and Luzerne county, most heartily and felicitously welcomed the capitalists of New York to the Valley of the Lackawanna, acknowledging its indebtedness to their lib-

erality. He described, in an eloquent manner, the rapid growth of the town and its enterprises, pointing out the various landmarks and results in this connection in the most interesting manner, and communicating to every listener the spirit and enthusiasm which has made him a potent factor in the development of the community. He congratulated the movers of the great enterprise on the result of their labors and energy, which had throughout the day been made a matter of jubilee in Scranton by the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon and every joyful manifestation, and he congratulated them especially on the progress of their great career already far on its course toward the shores of the Pacific. In closing he most gracefully tendered the hospitalities of Scranton and a hearty welcome to the distinguished guests.

President Phelps responded, when a number of enthusiastic cheers were given, accompanied by the band, the cannon and the steam engines.

After this formal reception by the corporation, for which the firemen, the militia company, a full band and a large mass of operatives and inhabitants turned out, the excursionists were shown through the mines and other places of interest, proceeding also some miles up beyond Scranton to view the tunnel on the road. The party then returned and went down the uncompleted road—the “Lackawanna and Bloomsburg”—as far as the Susquehanna River and, after viewing the celebrated scenery there and the progress being made upon the road, returned to the town.

The article then goes on with an extended notice of Scranton, describing the place minutely—as, in these days, the newspapers give in a foot-note to the dispatches from the Japan-China war—the points of interest about the sites in which opera-

tions are progressing. At this time, when the name of Scranton is known in every city of importance in the Union, it is not uninteresting to note that this article pointed out to New Yorkers the best way of finding it on their map.

The supper at the Wyoming House is outlined in detail, and is described as having been as bounteous and elaborate as could be asked, to which the guests are represented as having done "a justice in good keeping with the spirits and speed at which they had proceeded throughout the day." President George D. Phelps of the consolidated roads presided, and there were present some seventy-five or a hundred prominent railroad men, besides members of the Legislature, newspaper men and numerous citizens.

Judge Porter, of Easton, made the address of the evening, and in the course of some very extended remarks, gave a concise history of the valley and particularly of its industrial development. In dwelling upon the latter, it is worthy of note that he prophesied the time was not very far distant—not beyond the lives of some who sat at the board from which he had arisen—when, all the way from Pittston to Carbondale there would be a succession of towns and villages, all knitted together by some means of rapid transit, having Scranton for a com-

mon center. This suggestion was, of course, received with tumultuous applause, but it is safe to say there were few, if any, at that gathering who did not consider it a flower of speech or a bit of complimentary over-sanguinity; yet, has not his prophesy been nearly fulfilled in my own life?

The addresses were kept up until a late hour, and all of the prominent guests were called upon for a few words. During the course of the evening a grand torchlight procession interrupted the banquet. It was made up of thousands of miners with lamps on their hats and torches made of balls of waste dipped in miners' oil. The effect was wierd in the extreme. They all drew up in front of the Wyoming and were addressed by some of the guests as soon as the whistles from all of the mills and collieries and the engines along the road could be silenced. It was a night that will never be forgotten in Scranton until all of those who participated have passed to another land. Since that time there have been many and grander demonstrations, but it is to be doubted whether any of them have left as lasting an impression.

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad became interested in the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Road very early in its history. The road had been chartered in April, 1852, and was



authorized to construct a line from Scranton to Rupert, a distance of about fifty-seven miles. It was afterwards extended to Northumberland, a total distance of eighty miles. It is, perhaps, one of the most valuable branches of the system, as the road, almost its entire length, runs over coal, iron or limestone, and many important industries are located along the line. Between 1866 and 1870, the company secured the lands of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company on a most advantageous nine hundred and ninety-nine year lease—one of the most valuable and extensive coal properties in this field. It comprises about eight thousand acres.

The Morris and Essex Railroad was leased on January 1, 1839. Although a most profitable branch, it is interesting to note that most of the stock was bought in at fifty cents on the dollar and holders were glad to accept that, soon after construction began, and immediately thereafter, the company completed what is known as "the Boonton Branch," which ran from Danville to Hoboken, via Patterson, thus relieving the increasing demands for freight transportation, which were congesting the coal business and interfering with passenger traffic.

As has already been stated, a northern outlet for the road was at first secured by a connection

with the Erie Railroad at Great Bend. In 1855, a lease was made with the Cayuga and Susquehanna Railroad, extending from Owego to Ithaca, thirty-five miles, thus giving the first lake port for coal destined for Canada and the West. In 1869, the construction of the Valley Railroad, between Great Bend and Binghamton, rendered the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Road independent of the Erie to that point, and the same year it acquired the Greene Railroad, the Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna Valley, and a branch to Richfield Springs. In addition to securing control of a number of other roads, the company has completed its own independent line to Buffalo and now connects the tide water and the lakes by one of the shortest, most practicable and best equipped lines on the continent.

The extensive shops, which are such an important factor in the industries of Scranton, were founded when the first division of the road was undertaken. In 1854, these consisted of the brick building on Washington Avenue. The foundry and round house were erected the year following. Eighteen hundred and sixty and 1862 saw the car shops built, and in 1864, more shops were constructed, and the land which now constitutes the extensive yard and plant was added. The first locomotive engine owned by the

company was "Pioneer, No. 1," though the first trip was made by "Spitfire, No. 2," which, owing to the energy of Mr. Dotterer, who was at the head of the transportation department, was ready for service. Both of these engines came from Port Griffith, on the Pennsylvania Coal Company's railroad, to the junction of the ore mine railroad, and from thence to the line of rails they were destined to traverse. Both, like the "Stroubridge Lion," which made the first trip in the United States, at Honesdale, August 8, 1829, with Horatio Allen at the throttle, were of English manufacture.

The Erie and Wyoming Valley Railroad was organized November 6, 1864, and soon after the first officers had been elected, passed into the hands of the present stockholders' control, which has continued ever since. It extends from the Lackawaxen River, in Pike County, to the Susquehanna, in Luzerne, and follows substantially the route of the old "Gravity Track" of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, whose output it handles. Having a number of lateral branches and a running arrangement with the New York, Lake Erie and Western, it has also a fine passenger service. The entire length of the line, including the branches which extend to the various breakers, is about seventy-five miles. In equipment and management, the road, under the efficient direction of its president, Mr.

John B. Smith, has been brought to a high state of completeness, and bears in every department, the traces of his judicious and experienced development.

The completion of the branch of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and the connection of the New York, Ontario and Western with this city, through the Ontario, Carbondale and Western Railroad, all mark the gradual railroad development that has been steadily progressing ever since the first project was successfully inaugurated, and the near future will doubtless see many other extended connections made with Scranton as a radiating point.

The first charter for a street railroad was secured about 1864, and contemplated a belt line that was to run from Scranton to Dunmore, thence to Providence, thence to Hyde Park, and back to the central city. Two years thereafter another charter was secured by which D. B. Randall, A. B. Dunning, George Tracey, A. Bennett and Samuel Raub were authorized to build on the same route. Up to this time the only conveyance that was run within the vicinity was an omnibus line between Scranton and Providence, which carried passengers for twenty-five cents a head, and made little or no money for its owners. The new company was

organized June 6, 1866, under the name of the People's Street Railway Company, with James Blair, president; W. W. Winton, vice-president; Alfred Hand, secretary; and James Blair, H. B. Rockwell, T. F. Hunt, Ira Tripp and Daniel Howell, directors. A survey of the line was made during the fall of that year, but the work of construction was not begun until the following spring, so that the first car passed over the road July 4, 1867, the occasion being the holding of Caledonian games at the old race course. In August of the same year, a contract was let for the construction of the line to Hyde Park, and on its completion a new era of development opened to that portion of the city.

Meanwhile, Mr. George Sanderson had purchased the Whaland farm at what is now Green Ridge, and had laid out that flourishing suburb. He at once perceived that the erection of the street railroad on the other side of the Lackawanna River would stimulate building there to the detriment of the plans that he had projected, and sought to counteract the effect by the erection of a road that would make his property quite as easy of access from the center of the city. Such a road was chartered as the Scranton and Providence Railroad, and was officered as follows: George Sanderson, president; George S. Kingsbury, secretary and

treasurer, and Jacob Robinson, William Breck, William N. Monies and George Sanderson, directors. The cars commenced running May 29, 1867. The Scranton depot of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad was the terminus of both lines, and as each company was anxious to secure the exclusive right of way through Lackawanna Avenue, there was a lively legal contest. This was settled by Judge Conyngham, May 11, 1868. The barn and stables were erected on Linden Street in 1874. In 1888, the controlling stock of the company was purchased by some New York parties, and a reorganization took place. Electricity was adopted as a motive power on all the existing lines and some extensions. The success of electricity had been demonstrated in this city prior to its adoption by the People's Street Railway Company. In May, 1886, Messrs. E. B. Sturges, George Sanderson and others had secured a charter for the Scranton Suburban Railway, designed to give rapid transit to Green Ridge and Dunmore. This was equipped with the Van der Poêle system, and the first car made its trial trip November 27, 1887, which was the first car to be propelled by electricity in the United States. On the twenty-third of December following, another charter was granted to the Nay-Aug Cross-Town Railway and in August of the following year the Scranton Passenger Railway was built. All of these roads



have since passed under the control of the Scranton Traction Company by lease, or absorption by some of the older companies, and there are at present about fifty miles of railroad, meshing together most of the important towns between Carbondale and Pittston.





## CHAPTER FIFTEENTH.

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### REAL ESTATE MATTERS.

Earliest Transaction of Records—The Increase of Value in a Century—  
Tracts Which Compose Scranton Proper—A Transaction of the  
Fifties—The Advent of a Railroad—Some Suggestive Figures  
—The Outlook for the Future.

**N**O chapter in the story of Scranton's wonderful development can be of more interest to the present generation than that which deals with the increase of values in real estate, and traces the gradual evolution of costly town lots from the acreages of wilderness that were called for by the deeds of the original settlers. It is, indeed, the mathematical side of the valley's history that is alone unbiased by any prejudice, and uncolored by any tendency on the part of the narrator. The figures speak for themselves, and tell without comment the actual conditions of the valley, from a commercial standpoint, during the years in which they were recorded. In their fluc-

tuations may be found the ebb and flow of prosperity's tide in each decade; when market price reflected the advancement or depression of the times, and the desirability of real estate investment, in the light of the progress the various industries were making toward ultimate success. A comparison of these prices, taken in connection with the general conditions of the country, gives a key to the actual results in city building, as they were accomplished, step by step, and for this reason justifies full consideration.

All of the earlier transactions in the real estate which is comprised in what is now the City of Scranton were, of course, among the Connecticut people who composed the Susquehanna Company, and many of them antedated the Revolutionary and Pennamite wars. They consisted chiefly in the barter or sale of "lottes or shares" in the holdings of that corporation, but, like the deals of a later date, were made with an eye to speculation and subsequent increase of value, even though the considerations for which they changed hands were trifling. The Westmoreland Records, a volume in which all of the business of the town was recorded until after the Trenton Decree,\* mentions

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\* In November, 1792, the opposing claims of Connecticut and Pennsylvania were heard by a commission, by whose decision each party bound themselves to abide. The claims of Connecticut under a

the transfer of a share of three hundred acres, about in the neighborhood of where Peckville now stands, from one Strong to Benjamin Bailey for a "few furs and a flint gun," as does it also the transfer of a "lot in ye Township of New Providence, alious Capoose," which had been surveyed to Col. Lodwig Ojikirk, to Jonathan Slocum, "on account of said Slocum doeing ye Duty of a settler" for the grantee. On this tract was located the town sign post, upon which all town meetings were legally warned,\* and as it was partially cleared land, and was ready for cultivation on the old meadows, it may be taken for granted that this was a fair estimate of its value at a time when manual labor was the chief commodity of exchange. "Doeing ye Duty of a Settler" meant the erection of a cabin, the planting of a crop suf-

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charter granted by King James, in 1662, were overlapped in part by the lands granted by Charles II to William Penn, in 1681, and this led to the bitter internecine struggle known as the Pennamite war, with all its brutal and inhuman features. The session at Trenton for the adjudication of the matter lasted over five weeks, and the decision was as follows: "We are unanimously of the opinion that the State of Connecticut has no right to the lands in controversy. We are also unanimously of the opinion that the jurisdiction and pre-emption of all territory lying within the charter boundary of Pennsylvania, and now claimed by the State of Connecticut, do of right belong to the State of Pennsylvania." The final compromise law of 1779 gave a patent to all bona fide settlers who proved their claim, but placed them under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania.

\* "Voted that ye Indian apple Tree, so called at Capoose, shall be ye Town Sign Post for ye town of New Providence."—*Westmoreland Records*, 1774.

ficient to pay the tithes, and such road duty as the Selectmen and the Surveyors of Highways should exact, and probably required a month's labor during the year. The original share of three hundred acres was thus secured to Colonel Ojikirk. The deed to Slocum called for one hundred and eighty acres of this, or about six acres per day's labor, which would be in the neighborhood of about four cents an acre.\* This was in 1774. Just a hundred years later this tract could not have been bought for less than from two to three thousand dollars an acre, and it is now mostly laid off in town lots, which sell for several hundred dollars apiece.

During the first half of this century the lands in this valley gradually increased in value as they were cleared up, and became more available for agricultural purposes. In this respect they kept pace with those similarly situated in adjacent portions of the State; but there was little or no real conception of the real value which underlaid them. It was known that there was plenty of stone coal in the hills, but this fact attracted little attention,

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\* "Voted that those persons who shall Go out to work on ye Rode from Dilleware River to ye westernmost part of ye Great Swamp Shall have three shillings ye day Lawfull money for ye time they work to ye Exceptance of ye overseers; and from ye Great Swamp this way, Shall Have one shilling and sixpence pr. Day and no more."—*Westmoreland Records*.



since the fate of the first few ark-loads of Anthracite shipped to Philadelphia had passed into common gossip, and the channels of general information of the day were so constricted as to afford little or no opportunity for the settlers to learn of changed conditions and an increasing market. While the undaunted courage of the Wurts brothers, in laying the foundation of what is now the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad, had demonstrated, in a small way, the possibilities of mining development, in the whole region, there came only gradually the realization of the aims and possibilities of their project. From the outset their dream and scheme had been the object of derision, contempt and opposition; and even after they and their successors had demonstrated, in the most practical way, the necessity of watching the industrial rather than the agricultural development of the region, so strong was the prejudice against such development that, as late as 1830, the sentiment of the community was voiced in an appeal to local prejudice which issued from malcontents all over the county, and was printed at Dundaff, with most startling headlines. It set forth a most appalling catalogue of rights that, it was alleged, would be sacrificed were improvement permitted to proceed, and quoted in elaborate descriptions all the history of so-called monopolies for a century and a half, in a mad effort to excite all feeling that

could be inimical to the company that had the real interest of the valley at heart. While the antagonisms thus generated were not potent enough to place more than a temporary obstacle in the way of the company, such utterances had their effect on the people of the region, and, years later, this was evident in the caviling, distrustful spirit which greeted the sturdy pioneers at Slocum's Forge, and found vent in current jeers about "the Jersey Humbug" when the first essays at iron-making proved unprofitable.

To write from memory the detailed history of real estate transactions, from their commencement in August, 1842, up to this time, would be a serious task; but a hasty outline might interest, if not instruct the present generation, and enable it to properly apprehend the marvelous increase in surface values which have been the foundation of many of the fortunes of some of the city's wealthiest men.

What is now Scranton proper was first owned by the Slocums, and the portion purchased by Mr. Henry was owned by a syndicate of the residents of the township, which had purchased it of the Slocum estate, on the death of the older Slocum. On the south, the line running with a stump fence through Lackawanna Avenue, from thence to the

Flats, included the old grist mill, and the old house that belonged to Barton Mott, who was one of the early farmers and raised most of the grain for the country round. On the north of the Slocum property was the farm of Ebenezer Hitchcock, whose wife was a sister of the elder Slocums. Mr. Hitchcock, too, farmed for a livelihood. He was a man of intelligence, a mill-wright by trade, and immigrated from New Hampshire when a young man. To travel these few hundred miles on horseback, to a new country, in those days, required more enterprise than is requisite to go to California, in this age of steam and railroads, and it required as much time to accomplish the journey.

This property was encumbered with a mortgage, the terms of which gave the owner the option of paying one amount, and taking the whole of the farm, or of taking but half of it in non-payment of the obligation. He accepted the latter, and the Scranton Company took their part of the farm. After some time, and delay, Mr. Hitchcock sold his half to a Mr. Beckett, of Philadelphia, through the agency of the late George Sanderson, and this portion now contains a large share of the most prominent residences in the city.

North of this was another property belonging to Mr. Charles H. Silkman, being a portion of a

large tract extending West, crossing the river, and adjoining the Holden Tripp property—one of the original tracts settled during the last century. These four tracts comprise nearly all of Scranton proper. The other purchases of lands by the Scrantons, that have been a source of so much profit, by the sale of lots, were made at more recent dates. As the prosperity of the community became more established they sought other lands and, in fact, it was several years before they began to develop the coal of the valley. Then, by purchase and leases of coal lands that had formerly been condemned by "experts," especially about Hyde Park, they secured large tracts from which they have been mining millions of tons annually, since 1854, and in many cases, the surface has also proved of great value. The prosperity of Scranton was organized. Other men saw the value of lot sales, with the reserve of the coal, and many additions were made to Providence and Hyde Park, and new residence portions, such as Green Ridge, Park Place, or the Remington purchase, in the vicinity of the steel mill, were laid out.

In 1840, Scranton was mostly covered with a second growth of pines and oaks, especially the ridge now occupied by the elegant residences of the Scrantons, the Platts, as well as further east,

to the Archbald estate, and the residence built for Mr. Selden T. Scranton. From there to the river was also covered with a second forest growth, and remained so until so much later a period that when Joseph Godfrey built his new hotel on the site soon to be occupied by the Hotel Jermyn, it was named "The Forest House," from the character of most of its immediate surroundings. A fence of stumps, drawn from the field, enclosed all the space between Lackawanna and Washington Avenues and the river, and was cultivated as a farm by Barton Mott, a very good man, who owned the grist mill. He became embarrassed, and sold the property to the late Horatio S. Pierce, who, after holding it for a short season, parted with it at the large profit of \$4,000! How it has increased in value since that time will be appreciated when it is remembered that this tract included much of the south side of Lackawanna Avenue, as well as all of the shops, yards and manufactories which lie beyond it. This is only one of the hundreds of instances in the history of this valley where, in those days, as now, a man's foresight was not as good as his hindsight. We all had to learn by experience, and even when the dawn of prosperity rapidly brightened into the full day of development, the transition was so sudden as to dazzle and confuse many more timid ones, who, having once missed the golden opportunity of

their lives, never could, as did the gentleman I have just mentioned, profit by the wisdom they had gained, and lay the foundation for a magnificent fortune afterward.

The first property that I owned in the valley was purchased soon after I located here. It was on the Providence Road, some distance this side of Razorville Corners, then the commercial and political center of the settlement. It stood on what is now West Market Street, just above the old hotel. I paid five hundred dollars for the lot, and erected a small frame house on it. The house was standing a few years ago, if, indeed it is not at present. This property I held for a number of years, and eventually sold it for \$8,000.

When the iron works had become established, and the Messrs. Scranton persuaded me to come and locate at the Hollow, I was given permission to go where I wanted, and select such a lot as I pleased. My lines included most of the block now occupied by the First Presbyterian Church, the Wyoming House, and the stores along the north side of Lackawanna Avenue. Subsequently it was discovered that there was some difficulty about making a deed for it, and the company took it back, and gave me lots in another location. It would have probably brought four or five thous-



and dollars, at the time of this latter transaction, and I suppose that the land is worth nearly half a million to-day.

The first real advance in the price of lots began in about 1852 and 1853, when the railroad surveys were finished to the city. The first survey was begun in my front door yard, the engineer standing within a few feet of the corner of my fence, and there driving his first stake. It was in the early days of railroading, and at a time when it was thought that a locomotive must have a perfectly level road bed. The existing roads were principally level, and nearly straight. The route, as at first contemplated, was on a somewhat similar plan, and when this was afterward changed, and some heavy grades were projected, there were plenty of prophets sceptical as to whether a train could ever go over them. The completion of this railroad demonstrated the power of modern traction machinery to an extent that had never before been dreamed of.

In 1853 and 1854, I owned the brick house on Washington Avenue, adjoining the Burr Building. I paid \$2,500 for the lot, and three years afterward sold it for \$5,000. It was sold only a few days ago for \$35,000. Another instance that will serve to show the rapid increase of values has been

steady through all of these years is in the history of what was known as the Harrington property, now one of the lots in the Coal Exchange block. In 1864 or 1865, I gave \$6,000 for it. Mr. Carlin had bought it from the company a few years before for \$700, and erected a house upon it. I, of course, got the improvement. I sold it at a good profit to Mr. Brisbin, and when Mr. Jermyn bought it, he gave \$15,000. Another instance is that of the old Battin place, on Washington Avenue. On July 15, 1864, I sold it for \$5,000. Just about thirty years afterward it sold for \$30,000, or an annual increase of twenty per cent., on the ground alone, for of course the improvement was constantly deteriorating.

My first extensive venture in laying off town lots was when I bought the Kilmore farm, which lay on both sides of Jackson Street, on the West Side, and from which Throop's Addition was laid out. This embraced Jackson, Adams and Washington Streets, east and west, through Sherman, Grant, Van Buren, Monroe, Filmore, Jefferson, Rebecca, Madison and Hyde Park Streets. I opened up all of the streets at my own expense, and made the property as attractive as possible, and the lots sold rapidly at a very handsome profit. As the city expanded, all the other new streets were made to correspond with my lines,

and the result is that this portion of the city is as symmetrical as the topography will allow. This tract contained one hundred and twenty-five acres for which I paid one hundred dollars an acre. In September of 1853 I purchased ten acres adjacent to this tract for twelve dollars and fifty cents an acre. Many of the additions made to the city proved profitable, even though the opening up of the streets cost considerable, and the lots did not sell for a very high price. I added one hundred and fifty acres to Providence at a considerable expenditure, and received low lot prices, though I was very glad to do so. I got rid of my taxes, and saved all of my coal. On the Drinker Road, above Dunmore, I disposed of a similar amount by making an addition to that borough, for the same reasons. Both proved profitable transactions. Other properties were acquired at prices ranging from that to two hundred dollars, and most of the coal acreage is now held at from \$4,000 to \$5,000 an acre, and all of this increase has come within the last thirty years. It is a noticeable fact that some of the best coal in the valley has been found in the very locations that the so-called "experts" of the early days declared to be valueless, while some of the places that they selected as the best properties have long since been abandoned. It is interesting to note that the history of real estate values in Scranton

has never been subjected to any boom, and that at no period, has there ever been any unhealthy inflation of prices. There are plenty of men now living in the city who shook their heads dubiously at the prices which ranged twenty years ago, and prophesied dreadful things because real estate was then so high. They were quite sure that it had reached the highest point, and must drop, sooner or later. It is needless to say they have seen the folly of their diagnosis. The common price on Washington or Lackawanna Avenues at present is \$1,000 a front foot. Increased values, instead of checking the growth of the city, have increased it, and the outlook for the future points toward as steady and large an advance for many years to come. All up and down the valley, thriving towns and villages are springing up. Better facilities for rapid communication and transit give impetus to all of these places, and every new building that is erected within a radius of fifteen miles of the center of the city has a certain effect on the value of town lots. By the time that the prophecy made at the opening of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad is fulfilled, as it certainly will be—by the time the valley is almost a continuous city from Carbondale to Pittston—real estate in the center of the city will again have increased in value almost as phenomenally as it has done in the past three decades, and many other large fortunes will have been built upon it.

## CHAPTER SIXTEENTH.

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### CONCERNING PHILANTHROPIES.

Church Services of the Early Settlers—The Connecticut Church and School Grants—First Church Edifice—"The Village Chapel"—Denominational Rivalry—The Odd Fellows' Hall—The Building of St. Luke's—Early Care of the Poor—"Aunt Lydia Brown"—Evolution of the Hillside Home—Beginnings of the Hospital—First Failures at Co-operation—An Individual Enterprise—The Institution Opened—Some Early Contributors—The First State Appropriation, and What Came of It—Other Similar Institutions.

THE first religious services that were held in the Lackawanna Valley were probably those of Count Zinzendorf, the Moravian missionary who seems to have visited Chief Capouse, even before the white men had obtained a foot-hold in this section. The earlier settlers brought with them some religious notions, and it is quite certain that the proprietors of the Connecticut colony laid the foundations of a thorough-going religious side for the community, just as did they for proper educational advantages. They

set aside tracts of land to be devoted to both of these necessary adjuncts of a complete civilization, and, had these properties remained sacred to the purposes to which they were devoted until to-day, all the requirements, both denominational and educational, of even a teeming city like Scranton, could have easily been met from the income that would have been produced by the mineral which these church and school lands contained. In some way or other, and through transactions, the details of which are quite obscure, history repeated itself, and private individuals became the greedy beneficiaries of "usufruct for public destined."

What was known as "The Parsonage Lot," consisting of about three hundred acres, and located where much of the heart of the city now stands, and included in the original purchases of the Scrantons, was given to Elder William Bishop, an English Baptist, who settled here in 1794. He built a log hut on a bluff overlooking the Lackawanna, and there held services in the most primitive fashion. After the Trenton Decree, and when the lands of the Connecticut settlers passed into the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, the parson surrendered his title—which was one in trust—to the proper authorities, and received in lieu therefor, a certificate for the same land in his own name. Under color of this, he disposed of the



tract, and sought other fields for his labors, and thus ended the first attempt to plant a church organization on a solid financial foundation in the new community.

Details are not at hand to trace the vicissitudes of the various denominations through the early days. Congregations were formed in numerous adjacent places, and one of the first of these was the church at Blakely, which has heretofore been referred to. When I first came to the city, there were two congregations in Hyde Park. Hon. William Merrifield had established a Christian Church and the Baptists had an organization also. Both worshipped in buildings that were used jointly for school and church purposes. The first church edifice that was erected solely for such use, was the church, which stood on Main Street, well down toward the old Fellows' Corners. The next was the "Village Chapel," as it was first called, which was erected in the fall of 1841, and was completed the following year. It stood on a bluff near the intersection of Lackawanna and Adams Avenues, though not on the present street lines, and was, the first time that I saw it, a modest building, one story high, with one door and six windows. It was about fourteen by sixteen feet square, and was used on all occasions for church purposes, public meetings and for a school. Here Hon. W.

W. Ketcham, afterwards a judge in Luzerne County, taught school in the winter of 1844. While he so occupied it, to while away the long winter evenings, a debating society was organized by Charles Scranton, Martin L. Newman, Ketcham, and a few other luminaries of the time. Here great questions of the state and nation were settled, and here I was requested to repeat the lecture I had delivered at the Presbyterian Church in Blakely, at Hyde Park and elsewhere—I did so, and they had me placed very high — “A No. 1,” in fact — among the lecturers in this particular part of the United States, at that particular time.

But, as years moved on, others came who were religiously inclined, and there was need for a better building. The Methodists were always pioneers, and they were on hand; and so we all chipped in and put up a better place, that answered when built, as had been before agreed, for all denominations. Methodist services were arranged by the presiding elder for every two weeks, and the other denominations filled in the rest of the time. This did very well for a year or two, but then the Presbyterians began to gain the ascendancy, and soon came along a missionary or two, and sought a share of the spoils. The old church had a revival, and added to its members so far that a little jealousy was engendered. About

1845 or 1846, the Odd Fellows' Hall, which cost \$700, was projected and built by a stock company. It was erected on a hill which has since disappeared, on the triangle and site now occupied by the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company's store, and was about sixty by twenty feet, and two stories high, the upper floor being occupied by the lodge of Odd Fellows that had been organized, while the lower story was appropriated to the use of the Presbyterians. It was here that Rev. Mr. Park first officiated, and after him, Rev. Mr. Mitchell. The edifice which the congregation now occupies was built in 1852. The Odd Fellows' Hall was used as a school, and was rented on all occasions to anything that came to the place—for phrenological, homeopathic lectures, and other entertainments. All had to pay to attend them, in fact, the stock gave fair dividends. None of it was ever sold in Wall Street, but, at the same time, much of it was owned there.

The adherents of the Romish Church were first supplied with missionaries from Susquehanna County, and, when they were numerous enough to warrant the erection of a place of worship, they cast about for an eligible location, and finally selected a site on the banks of the Roaring Brook, back of the company's steam saw mill, with ground for a cemetery contiguous. Here

they worshiped and buried their dead, until about ten years after the borough of Scranton was surveyed and plotted into lots, and blocks, when the church was changed to the southeast corner of Franklin Avenue and Spruce Street, and the burial place was secured on the west side of the river, back of Hyde Park, in the addition that I was then making to the town plot. The church edifice was constructed under the supervision of the late, lamented Father Whitty, and the old church was taken away, as were the dead whose remains reposed near it. At the time the first church was erected, Scranton was a wild and uncultivated place, covered chiefly with a thick growth of weeds, some large and some small, and on the whole, with a little exception, north of Lackawanna Avenue, was swamp, pond and wood. The second church was occupied until the new and elegant Cathedral was erected, in 1865. It now stands as a monument to Father Whitty. The Cathedral, the Episcopal residence, the convent and college, and the rest of the parochial buildings constitute some of the most valuable property of the city, and Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Hara has, in the important diocese over which he so wisely presides, congregations in this city and adjoining townships that number many thousands.

The first Episcopal services ever held in the city were conducted by Rev. Mr. Claxton, of Wilkes-Barre, at the residence of Ebenezer Hitchcock, early in 1841. From time to time there were occasional services held in private houses, but the church was not organized until August 5, 1851, at which time Elisha Hitchcock and J. C. Burgess were chosen wardens, and Charles Swift, Jacob Kerlin, B. H. Throop, M. D., L. M. Clarke, and E. S. M. Hill, vestrymen. It was on this occasion that the first public services were held in the Methodist Chapel, and were conducted by Rev. John Long, an itinerant missionary in the Wyoming and Lackawanna District. Services were held in various places for a year or two, and at Easter Time, 1852, Mr. Long assumed charge as missionary under the direction of the Society for the Advancement of Christianity in the State of Pennsylvania. The frame church edifice was erected in 1853. It stood on Penn Avenue, between Lackawanna Avenue and Spruce Street. Its corner stone was laid April 19, and after serving the congregation for a number of years, became the first hospital of the valley, as is elsewhere narrated. In May, 1875, the building was demolished, and two of the officers who were present at the laying of the corner stone—the late J. C. Burgess and myself—were also there when it was exhumed. The box containing the archives was

found in good condition, and they are still preserved. The ground for the present edifice was broken, July 5, 1866. The corner stone was laid the following year, and the church was opened for worship, July 2, 1871.

The detailed history of all of the churches in Scranton has been frequently written by those who have access to the records of the various denominations, and hence could compile accurately the many facts of interest with which the stories of each one teems. It is not within the scope of these recollections to enter minutely into such matters; but rather to point out the fact that within the last half a century, the religious growth of the community has kept pace with the development in every other direction. There are to-day within the limits of the city seventy-nine different congregations, representing seventeen different denominations and faiths, and nearly all of them have separate and creditable church edifices. The same may be said of the humble beginnings that were made in educational matters. Out of the little private school that has just been mentioned as having been taught in the old Village Chapel, there has been evolved the magnificent public school system of which the city is so justly proud, while a number of private institu-



tions give special training of a high character to select clientele.

Organized philanthropy developed more slowly than did churches and schools, though the progress has been none the less substantial. The first effort in any direction was, of course, to care for the poor of the district. In the early days, when we were all under the township system, Providence, as was customary in most localities at that time, let the keeping of the poor out on the contract system. Each year the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, and for a long time, "Aunt Lydia Brown," as she was generally known, was the successful competitor. The indigent committed to her care were provided with a room or two, in her house, and the provision made for them was of the most meager character. Reforms came slowly, but were gradually made, as the spirit of philanthropy grew, until, at last, in 1862, a law was passed incorporating a Poor District to consist of the Boroughs of Dunmore and Scranton, and the Township of Providence. The agitation which brought about this much-needed change was kept alive more through the medical profession than by any other means. Some of the first charges to come on the township had been those who were insane or feeble-minded. Such, as is often the case in sparse communities, re-

ceived but most perfunctory care, and little or no attention designed to cure their maladies. But the incorporation brought about an entirely different state of affairs. The present Hillside Home was purchased, and proper buildings were erected, and since that time there has been constant improvement, so that to-day, there is every reason to feel proud of the institution. As the first surgeon appointed by the district, I have witnessed, all along the lines of growth and development, the fulfillment of most of the plans which were outlined at the formative period of the institution, and have been gratified to see that its conduct has, in the main, been liberal, judicious and humane, meeting the requirements of the unfortunates in a most admirable manner. The additional buildings which have been recently completed are models, and the sanitary as well as the personal comfort of the inmates has received the fullest consideration. The wisdom of the plan which we first devised—that of having a suitable farm where the labor of the indigents could be utilized toward their support, has been manifest at every stage of development. The institution each year approaches more nearly self-support, and the inmates are the happier for their employment. The present buildings and the additional land that has been purchased, together with the improvements which are still to be made, make the

Hillside Home one of the most complete and well arranged public institutions in the State.

The last annual report showed that during the last fiscal year the total property of the district amounted to \$260,751.84.

As Scranton developed, and there grew up about it, the great industrial community upon which its prosperity rests, one of the next needs to be felt was the establishment of a hospital, where the unfortunates, whose injuries always result from the casualties inseparable from the occupations which here abound, could be suitably cared for. The necessity for skilled nurses and suitable facilities for the proper treatment of the sick and injured of the middle classes was early manifest to me, as I was the surgeon for the Scrantons & Platt and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Companies. For a number of years prior to the breaking out of the war, I had endeavored to formulate some plan by which such a humane necessity should be met; but so great were the requirements of the rapidly growing community, and so many were the channels which it opened up for enterprise, both of a public and private character, that it was almost impossible to get proper assistance in the matter. With

the experiences of the war, and the general awakening in the public mind that had resulted from the patriotic philanthropies that had been organized by the Nation, I again took up the project on my return. Again and again were there spasmodic attempts to meet these pressing requirements, but all brought disappointment. The great necessity of a hospital had long been felt, and the many poor who were sick or wounded were daily driven to seek a home, often in the midst of the haunts of poverty, where care or nourishment was hard to obtain, and, at times, it seemed next to impossible to make merciful provision for them. Subscriptions were started; but the sums subscribed were so insignificant that it seemed nonsense to spend more time in that direction. Then a bill was sent to the Legislature praying for State aid, and it failed. Another was sent, and had a reading in the proper course of business, but this also was consigned to the wastebasket, when many other bills which did pass, benefiting individuals in this section, might better have been so disposed of. The session closed, and no help had been received. It was about this time, when every prospect of a public character had failed, that I resolved, with the assistance of a number of the leading physicians of the city, who promised to share in its labors and care, to open the hospital myself. The old Episcopal Church

edifice, which stood on Penn Avenue, between Lackawanna Avenue and Spruce Street, had passed into my possession, and this was fitted up for the purpose, a large number of generous ladies donating portions of its most necessary equipment. I also received a number of cash contributions from representatives of the various corporations, and a few monied men; the expense of maintaining it, however, soon fell entirely on me, aided by such contributions as flowed from the generous hearts of some of our noble women. Its value as a philanthropy soon came to be appreciated, and in fulfilling its errand of mercy to the suffering, it also excited the interest of those who had before been lethargic, and the prospect began to brighten.

From the columns of *The Republican* comes the following clipping, an excerpt from a report or acknowledgment that I made a year or two after it had been in operation :

\* \* \* On the first of May, the doors of the old Episcopal Church were thrown open to receive all who required medical or surgical treatment, under the usual regulations for admission, and has continued from that time until now. During this time there has been a constant succession of patients, and the institution is now full of those requiring medical or surgical treatment. Some of the operations have been important, and very many of small consequence. There have been two amputations, the femoral artery tied, resection of the humerus, and

several dislocations received, and fractures of the large bones have been constant and numerous. One operation for stone—(Lithotomy)—one side of an upper jaw removed, and several similarly important being among the other operations. The opthalmic department has been more immediately under the charge of Dr. Fisher, who has evinced much skill in that line, and deserves honorable mention, while Drs. Squire, Boyd, Everhart, Haggerty, Fisher, O'Brien and Reed have each served one month, and during the time have devoted that care and attention to the inmates that has secured their grateful acknowledgment.

The hospital has received kind remembrances from many, which have been acknowledged monthly, and the increase of contributions at this season strengthens the faith that as a public institution of the kind is needed, that, of the hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax on coal paid yearly to the State, a small portion should, in justice to the large population, be sent back to aid those who are injured in procuring it.

The contributions for December have been : Mrs. W. F. Hallstead, shirts and bed quilts ; Mrs. T. F. Hunt, a great variety of very useful articles of clothing, bedding, crockery, etc. ; Mr. B. Jay, one overcoat ; Mrs. A. Duer, reading matter ; Mrs. J. Phelps, one dressing-gown ; Mrs. H. Doud, two dressing-gowns ; Mrs. J. C. Platt and Mrs. Adams, each a turkey ; Mrs. B. Milhouser, money, \$1.00 ; Mrs. J. H. Scranton, \$100 ; Mr. Thomas Dickson, \$100 ; the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, through their president, Mr. Dickson, \$500 ; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, through Sam Slone, president, \$500. These marks of appreciation from the public are of great value to the enterprise, and it is to be hoped that from this small and humble beginning an institution may yet spring up that will be a



credit to our community, and of which not only the city, but even the State itself will feel proud.

B. H. THROOP, M. D.

The hopes expressed in this report have been in a measure fulfilled, and this fact has well repaid me for the time and money expended, and is doubtless quite as gratifying to those who were among the early contributors. The charter for the hospital was secured in 1871, and bears the date May 18, of that year. The corporators were William N. Monies, William F. Hallstead, B. H. Throop, R. A. Squire, A. Davis, E. C. Fuller, William Merrifield, Henry Griffin, Charles H. Doud, W. W. Winton, "and other contributors to the foundation and endowment of a public hospital and dispensary in the City of Scranton, together with their associates and successors." The first meeting was held July 11, 1871, at which time the officers were selected as follows: B. H. Throop, president; E. C. Fuller, secretary; William Merrifield, treasurer. It was determined to at once open a free dispensary, and I offered the front room of the old Episcopal Parsonage, rent free, for this purpose. It was accepted, and Dr. C. H. Fisher was selected to take charge. In 1872, I spent a number of months in Harrisburg, working in behalf of the division of Luzerne County and the erection of Lackawanna, and, during that time, was successful in securing an appropriation

of \$10,000 a year for the maintenance of the institution, and since that time, the Old Tavern Building, on the corner of Franklin Avenue and Mulberry Street, which was secured through this fund, has been improved, new wards have been erected, and a model hospital has been conducted. My active connection with the hospital ceased May 22, 1873, there having been a change in the board. The best explanation of this can be found in my letter of resignation, which was at that time presented. It was as follows:

*To Alfred Hand, Esq., President of the Lackawanna Hospital and Board of Directors :*

SIR:—You having been elected to the Presidency of the Lackawanna Hospital in my place, I deem it proper to state that, had I known you would have given fifty dollars for the position, it would have been yours without the trouble of an election, so far as I was concerned ; yet, I must say, I feel humiliated somewhat, under the circumstances. After several years of fruitless toil, endeavoring to enlist the public in its behalf, I started the hospital on my own responsibility, and, with the assistance of many friends and well wishers to the enterprise, carried it on for a year and a half, and with what success I leave the public to judge. It was then I conceived the idea of purchasing the present property on more accounts than one. The price was conceded to be reasonable and the capacity ample for the emergency. After ventilation, renovation and repairs, I again appealed to the Legislature, and, unaided, obtained a loan from the State of \$10,000 of which every dollar was paid on the purchase. Since then we have put in repairs as far as was positively neces-

sary, and occupied it. A mortgage of nearly \$4,000, yet remaining on the property, and soon becoming due, without any visible means of meeting it, without any reliable source toward which to look for permanent support, I again went before the Legislature, and stated our condition and wants, and have succeeded in obtaining \$10,000 more, intended to cancel the mortgage, extend the repairs to the house and devote whatever balance may remain to its support.

The Hospital, from its inception, has been a bantling of mine and its ultimate success my determination. To say that it has not been an expensive luxury would not be the truth, nor that it had not been a source of great anxiety, perplexity and toil; yet, at this juncture, I am satisfied to yield it to my successors, in the hope that it may prove in the future what I believe it has been in the past—one of the greatest charities our city can boast. I am yet allowed a position on the surgical staff, as well as to remain a director of the institution, both of which offices I desire to resign, fearing that my presence in either board might prove discordant. I leave the ship, not sinking, but under full sail, its wards well filled, out of debt, and a safe guarantee for a brilliant future, which is the fervent wish of

Very respectfully,

B. H. THROOP.

In looking over the records that are still in my possession, I find that during the time that I maintained the hospital at my own expense, aided by such contributions as came in, there were over fifty surgical operations, some of them very important. The list included several that were decidedly unusual. Besides these there was the treatment of the usual catagory of diseases to be

found in any new community, and during the entire time there was seldom a week in which all of the beds were not occupied.

Since I started the Lackawanna Hospital, the munificence of Moses Taylor, Mrs. Percy H. Pyne and the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company has given the city another commodious hospital, and a number of equally important and somewhat similar charities up and down the valley have relieved the pioneer institution from some of the pressure that it felt in the early days; but it still retains a place that entitles it to State aid, and to the front rank among the State charities.



## CHAPTER SEVENTEENTH.

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### GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The First Forge in the Valley—Ventures of the Slocums—Abbott's Mill, Jerison White's Beginning and Other Early Enterprises—The Dickson Manufacturing Company, and Its Gradual Extension—The First Stove Works and Similar Ventures—Large Enterprises of Recent Years — The Scranton Gas and Water Company—One of the First Wells—Original Water Service Contract—Other Details.

THROUGHOUT the preceding chapters, I have incidentally referred to a number of the first industrial enterprises which awoke with the advent of the pioneers. They were in the main, the small beginnings of a thoroughly rural community, which was so nearly self-dependent that it was obliged to establish some meager facilities for supplying the necessities of a new civilization almost in the wilderness. These were principally saw and grist mills, blacksmith and wagon-makers' shops, and similar necessary adjuncts to a new community. It has not been deemed germane to these notes, which are de-

signed rather to put into permanent form the recollections of one individual, than to make a compendium of detailed historic information, to give these in chronological order, nor to make the list complete. A number of reliable historians have heretofore done this with a very considerable degree of accuracy. Yet for the sake of simplicity, it will be well to note some of them briefly, and in order that the enormous strides which the community has made within the recollections of the writer may be duly appreciated by the later comers—those for whose information and convenience they were designed.

The first link in the chain of events which has drawn all the interests of the valley toward the development of a manufacturing center was forged by Dr. William Hooker Smith and James Sutton, when they erected the first trip hammer below the falls of the Lackawanna River, at the point which has since been known as Old Forge, in the spring of 1789. These were the second iron works in the valley, the first having been erected at Newport, a year or two previous. This trip hammer marks the real date of the commencement of Scranton as a manufacturing city, since it subsequently fell into the hands of the Slocums, and was used by them until 1819, when it had become so battered, through years of useful service, that it had to be



replaced. It was the venture that they had made which attracted the attention of the founders of the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company to this valley, and the strokes of this hammer, so light and puny in comparison with the magnificent modern machinery on every hand, are still echoed by the hum of industry to-day. The story of the great corporation resultant from it has been told. The small corn or grist mill which Philip Abbott erected in 1778 has also been noted, and these, and the distilleries also referred to, were about all that there was until the main industry gave the city its real impetus. In 1840, Jerison White, who came from Connecticut, erected a small edged-tool factory on the flats opposite Razorville. His chief products were axes and scythes. He did a good business from the outset, but from some cause or other, soon sold out to Pulaski Carter, a young man from Windham County, Connecticut, who soon had three trip hammers and as many forges at work. From the employment of three hands, in 1841, the establishment has grown to large proportions, and has been an industry that has contributed much to the prosperity of the city. Soon after Mr. White sold out, he established another tool factory in Razorville, which, together with his dwelling house, was swept away by a big freshet, which occurred along early in the forties, and did considerable damage. Not discouraged at

this adversity, Mr. White soon built another small shop, and, with the assistance of a single hand, once more embarked in business on an exceedingly small scale. In a few years, his tools, which were good, had gained such a reputation that he was obliged to build a more extensive establishment, and this he occupied until 1861, when he took his nephew, Crandall White, into partnership. The plant was removed to Green Ridge in 1874, after there had been a number of changes in the firm. It still enjoys a high reputation for the quality of the goods it produces.

In February, 1856, one of the industrial enterprises which has since grown to enormous proportions and national reputation, was organized as the firm of Dickson & Company, the partners being Thomas Dickson,\* John A. Dickson,

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\* Thomas Dickson was born in the town of Landen, Berwickshire, Scotland, in 1824, and, in company with his father's family emigrated to Canada, in 1832, and after two years, went to Carbondale, locating there in 1836. James Dickson, his father, entered the employ of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company as a machinist, and subsequently became its master mechanic. Thomas had received his early schooling in Scotland, and in Canada. He also went to school in Carbondale, but, having quarreled with his teacher, in 1837, forsook the paths of public education, and offered himself as a teamster to George A. Whittington, who had charge of the company's horses and mules. After a year or two at this occupation, he entered mercantile life as a clerk for Charles T. Pierson, at Carbondale, and later, with several other firms. In 1856, he came to Scranton, and, with several others, established the Dickson Manufacturing Company, of which he was the first president, holding that office until 1870, when his

George L. Dickson, Maurice Wurts, Charles P. Wurts, Joseph Benjamine and C. T. Pierson. During the decade previous, the anthracite business had been steadily developing, and the mechanical requirements of the district had assumed such proportions that there was abundant room for a general machine and repair shop, which could supply the demand of private operators outside the general shops that the leading corporations had previously established for their own convenience. A foundry and machine shop was at once built, and the first work was done in May

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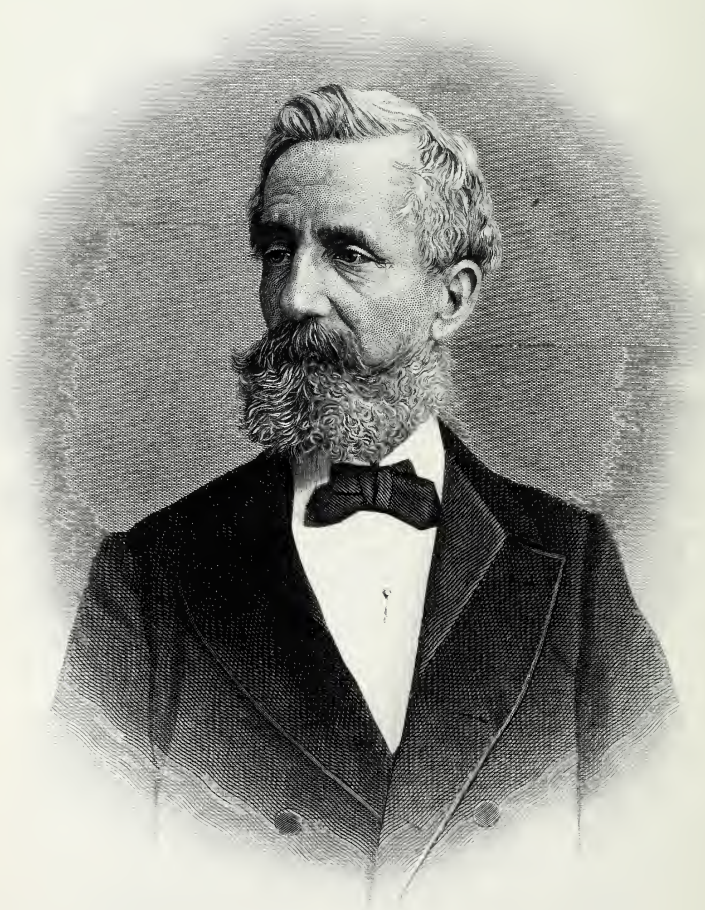
brother, George L. Dickson succeeded him. At this time, Thomas Dickson went into the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company as superintendent of the coal department, and, in 1864, was made general superintendent. In 1867 he was elected vice president, and, two years later, president, a position which he held up to the time of his death, July 31, 1884. Few men in the valley had greater contrasts in experience, greater tasks to meet, or greater responsibilities to carry. None met them with greater precision of action, decision of character, and clear deliberation and balance. His opinion was at once beloved and respected, his word was final, and, in the many attitudes and relations he occupied with the community, his integrity was never questioned.

Although essentially a man of business, Mr. Dickson was a lover of nature, whether it was portrayed in Art or in Literature. He had inherited a fine mind and true instincts from his mother, who was the daughter of a minister, and came from a long line of distinguished people. When the fruit of his industry brought him leisure, he devoted much of his time to books and pictures, and his collections of both were the best in all this section. He was exemplary in his life, and his deportment toward his fellow men was modest and unassuming. He was the soul of generosity, and left behind him a fragrant memory.

of the same year, when about two tons of iron were melted at the foundry. There were some thirty hands employed, and much of the first work which engaged the establishment was the preparation of the engines and boilers which were used by the Delaware and Hudson Company in completing their road from Carbondale to Honesdale. Although the character of the out-put from the works was one that achieved almost immediate reputation, the concern did not make very much money on its first contracts, and, like all of the enterprises that have achieved success here, had a few years of constant struggle to keep out of bankruptcy. It was only the ability and indomitable perseverance of the projectors that enabled the works to run during the depression of 1857; but after that time, expansion was more repaid. In 1862, a charter was obtained under the style of The Dickson Manufacturing Company, with an authorized capital of \$300,000 and an actual paid capital of \$150,000, and the first officers of the company were: Thomas Dickson, president; George L. Dickson, secretary and treasurer, and John L. Dickson, master mechanic. The number of hands had now increased to about one hundred and fifty, and the productiveness of the works had correspondingly increased. During the same year, the company purchased the locomotive works known as the "Cliff Works," and two







G. L. Dickson



years afterward, the planing mill adjoining these works was secured, and the manufacture of cars was begun. In 1866, a branch was established at Wilkes-Barre, by the purchase of the foundry and machine shops of Lanning & Marshall, and the capital, to meet the requirements of a steadily increasing business, was expanded to \$600,000, though the stock was not all issued until four years later.

Mr. George L. Dickson \* succeeded to the presidency of the company, in 1867, and two years later the large brick foundry on Penn Avenue was erected. Since that time various additions have been made to the works. The Cliff Works were destroyed by fire on February 27, 1875, and were

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\* George Linen Dickson was born in Landen, Berwickshire, Scotland, August 3, 1830. He came of a long line of patriotic Highlanders, and the family name is associated with many stirring historical events. His grandfather, Thomas Dickson, was for more than twenty years in the British army, and while sergeant in the Ninety-second Regiment, Highlanders, served with marked distinction through the Peninsular War, when the French, under Napoleon, were driven in dismay. Mr. Dickson had the distinction at the time of his death of being one of the few surviving officers of the last charge at the Battle of Waterloo. James Dickson, the eldest son of the old soldier, married Miss Elizabeth Linen, a most estimable woman, with true Scottish instincts of honesty, modesty, frugality and efficiency, to the attainment of which virtues she brought up her sons with the utmost zeal. In 1832, the cholera broke out in Scotland, and the Dicksons, together with a number of other families of the neighborhood, emigrated to America. They first settled in Canada, and after remaining there for two years, went to Carbondale, and located on a farm near Dundaff, in Susquehanna County. George L. Dickson early went

at once rebuilt. During the following year, more buildings were erected. Mr. George L. Dickson resigned the presidency, in 1882, and was succeeded by H. M. Boies. During his administration, extensive improvements were made to the plant. In 1886, he was succeeded by Mr. James P. Dickson, son of the founder, who is still the competent head of the concern, which now ranks among the foremost in the country.

In 1857, S. and J. Tunstall started the Providence Stove Foundry. It was a small affair, and employed only two or three hands, but is worthy of mention because it was one of the first establishments in this section to produce stoves especially adapted to the consumption of anthracite

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into the employ of the Delaware and Hudson Company, at Carbondale, and lived there until the organization of the Dickson & Company establishment. In September, 1856, he married Miss Lydia M. Poor, daughter of Hon. J. M. Poor, of that place. Three children were born of the union, only one of whom, Walter M. Dickson, now associated with his father, survives. Mr. G. L. Dickson succeeded his brother as president of the Dickson Company, and held that office until 1882, when he became general agent for some of the leading iron manufacturers of the country, including the Otis Iron Works of Cleveland, the National Tube Works of New York, the Standard Tube Works of Philadelphia, and a large number of other similar concerns. In 1863, he took an active part in the organization of the First National Bank, of which he is still vice president, and the oldest director in point of continuous service now living. He is a vestryman of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and has been all of his life prominently identified with the philanthropies which tended to the good of the community as well as the enterprises which promoted its prosperity.

coal. To-day, a number of large concerns contribute much to the prosperity of the valley on the lines that were originally laid down by this establishment. The works were purchased by Mr. Henry O. Silkman, in 1861, and a few months later he became the sole proprietor, in name as well as in fact. He increased the number of designs, and greatly expanded the business. After a number of years, and usual vicissitudes, the concern passed into the hands of George Quinn, who had become well qualified for its conduct by long service.

Another of the old concerns is the Finch establishment, now an incorporated institution, which was established by A. P. Finch and Burton G. Morss, in 1855. It subsequently passed into the hands of the senior partner, Mr. I. A. Finch, and was successfully conducted by him, until incorporated, a short time ago.

The Scranton Stove Works was established in 1865, under the name of Fisher & Co. It was incorporated, three years later, and received a large accession of capital from a number of prominent men who then became interested. The first directors after incorporation were H. S. Pierce, T. F. Hunt, A. E. Hunt, C. H. Doud, W. G. Doud,

Sanford Grant \* and J. A. Price. Most of these gentlemen have since retired from active service on the board, but their successors employ some two hundred workmen.

Some of the more important industries which have been established within the three last decades are the Moosic Powder Company, the Boies Steel Wheel Company, the Weston Mill Company, the Stowers Packing Company, the Green Ridge Iron Works, the Harvey Silk Mill, the Sauquoit Silk Mill, the Meadow Brook Silk Company, the Scranton Glass Company, the Scranton Steel Mill and numbers of others, the detailed history of which has been frequently printed in the various industrial publications which have been issued from time to time by enterprising advertising agents who have located here.

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\* Sanford Grant, who was one of the early partners of the Iron Works in Slocum's Hollow, was born in Vernon, Tolland County, Connecticut, and was a son of Augustus Grant, who was descended from some of the earliest settlers of the Plantation, while his mother was from another New England family, equally well established. In his boyhood, Sanford Grant received the usual common school education, and supplemented it by a course in the High School of Vernon, of which he was a graduate. In his early manhood, he went to New Jersey, and, after a number of fairly successful business ventures, finally located in Belvidere, where he resided at the time of the venture of the Scrantons in what is now so teeming a city. Mr. Grant embarked in the enterprise with them, and for a number of years conducted the mercantile side of the business, and finally disposed of his interest to Mr. Platt. He was twice married, and left two children. He died January 29, 1886.

One of the most important factors in the development of the city, and one that, taken in connection with the cheap fuel that the city affords, makes Scranton unapproachable as a location for manufactories, is the Scranton Gas and Water Company. It was soon after the advent of the railroads that I foresaw the necessity of an abundant supply of pure water for both domestic and mechanical purposes. Up to that time, nothing had been done, nor had the subject ever received thoughtful consideration. The existing works had supplied themselves with what water was necessary for their various mechanical operations, and the citizens generally depended upon the wells that had been sunk or driven, adjacent to their various properties. The town developed from a sparse hamlet to a thriving village without very many facilities for a good water supply. Many of the wells driven were failures, and the local springs had to be depended on. One of the best of these was that of Martin L. Newman, and early in the forties he began to peddle the water from it to such of the residents as would buy at a cent a gallon. One of the first wells in the center of the city, was put down on my lot, near where the First Presbyterian Church now stands, and was sunk by John Jermyn, now a millionaire. It was one of the first jobs that he obtained in the valley, and, though not a success, so far as water was

concerned, was as characteristically well executed, as have been all of his much greater projects since that time.

To return to the history of the Scranton Gas and Water Company. I communicated my views as to the necessity for such a public enterprise to Mr. J. H. Scranton, and impressed upon him the necessity of immediate action from an industrial as well as a hygienic standpoint. It met with his ideas, and speedy co-operation ensued, so that, by March, 1854, a charter was granted to Benjamin H. Throop, Joseph H. Scranton, John D. Mead, Edward C. Fuller and James McKinney, and their assigns and associates to provide, erect, and maintain all works, machinery, fixtures and other appliances necessary for the introduction into the Village of Scranton, Luzerne County, a sufficient supply of gas and pure water. The capital stock authorized was \$25,000, which could be increased to \$75,000 if necessary.

Negotiations were at once entered into for the construction of a plant, and resulted in the signing of the following contract, a copy of which is still in my possession :

THIS INDENTURE, made the twenty-fifth day of May, 1857, between B. H. Throop, Joseph H. Scranton, John D. Mead, Edward C. Fuller and James McKinney, of the



Borough of Scranton, of the first part, and John White, of the City of New York, of the other part ;

*Whereas*, the said parties of the first part procured the passage of an Act of Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, on the sixteenth day of March, 1854, for the purpose of supplying the Borough of Scranton, in Luzerne County, with gas and water, they being named therein as corporators, under the name and style of The Scranton Gas and Water Company, now this indenture witnesseth :

*That* said first parties, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to them in hand, well and truly paid by said John White, and for the further considerations, viz : that said John White, or his associates or assigns shall go on and organize a company under the said charter, procure the necessary subscription to said stocks, and provide, erect, and maintain all works, machinery and fixtures necessary or proper for making and introducing into the Borough of Scranton, aforesaid, a sufficient supply of gas, and for that purpose provide, erect and maintain all proper buildings, etc., for the reception of the gas to be introduced, and have the same commenced and completed, and in full operation, on or before the first day of August, A. D., 1858 ; doth hereby assign, transfer and set over to the said John White, and his associates, or assigns, all their right, title, interest, property and demand whatsoever, in and to the said charter, and give him, the said White, his associates or assigns, as full and absolute power to organize a company under the said charter as we ourselves possess : To have and to hold him, the said John White, and his associates or assigns forever.

*Provided*, nevertheless, in case the said company is not organized, and the works completed on the said first day of August, 1858, the privilege hereby assigned to revert to said assignors, and this assignment to become null and void.

Given under our hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

BENJ. H. THROOP, [SEAL]

JOS. H. SCRANTON, [SEAL]

JOHN D. MEAD, [SEAL]

E. C. FULLER, [SEAL]

JAMES MCKINNEY. [SEAL]

A true copy,

JAMES RUTHVEN, [SEAL.]

The original works were constructed under this contract. The water in the Lackawanna River had not at that time become polluted with the mine water from the various shafts and slopes which have since been located upon it, and converted it into a sewer, and this was deemed the most available source of supply. A pump house was erected on the banks of the stream, in Pine Brook, near where the street car line now crosses the river, and the reservoir on the corner of Madison Avenue and Olive Street, lately purchased by the First Presbyterian Church as a site for their new edifice, was constructed. At this time it was above any residence in the city, and gave an abundant supply. The demand for water increased, however, as did also that for gas, and in 1858, the capital stock was authorized to be increased to \$100,000. In 1861, Hyde Park and Providence were included in the territory for which the franchise was granted, and the stock has since been largely increased.

## CHAPTER EIGHTEENTH.

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### LABOR TROUBLES.

Early Relations Between Labor and Capital—Effect of Prosperity—A Reaction and the First General Strike—The Fruit of Concessions—The Long Strike and Its Tragedy—The Strike of 1877—The Brewing of the Trouble—Patriotic Young Men Prepare for Emergency—The Riot and the Citizens' Meeting—Effort to Organize a Company—The Battalion Idea—The Thirteenth Regiment.

**A**MONG the experiences that half a century of active life in this valley has brought few were more thrilling, none more exacting in the quasi-public duties of good citizenship they entailed, than were the weeks and days when the entire prosperity and progress of the region was threatened by the differences of capital and labor, unless, perhaps, we except the trying days of "the Sixties," which have been hereinbefore alluded to. The early history of mining or other industry contains little or no record of any serious disagreements between the employers and the employed, and the reasons for

this are obvious. When the first operations were begun this valley was an isolated territory with but slow and broken communication with larger cities and the seaboard. The first workingmen who came into it were brought by the projectors of its initiatory enterprises, and from the very conditions in which all found themselves placed, the relations of these men and their families toward the leading spirits of each new industry were of a peculiar character. None were very rich, and all were hard workers. The proprietor and his employed were thrown in close daily contact, and were on the most intimate and friendly terms. The communities were small, and wealth, advantages and social position had not made perceptible those subtle distinctions and differentiations which belong to more complex civilization, and, most of all, the daily personal contact of the indomitable men who were at the head of the leading enterprises generated a degree of enthusiasm and *esprit de corps* that made anything like general antagonism well nigh impossible. Even when the iron works were at their lowest ebb, and had received the *soubriquet* of "the Jersey Humbug," or when wage payments from the companies all up and down the valley were in the much-discounted "scrip," there was a marked fealty among those who would have preferred some more profitable kind of payment. So, through the first two dec-

ades, there was never any disagreement worthy of mention, except it be "The Irish War," which occurred during the construction of the railroad, in 1850-51, and was the outgrowth of race antipathies between some of the laborers employed on the work and not a question of difference of wages.

During this time values began to increase rapidly, and those who had been industrious found themselves growing each year more prosperous. Work was plenty, wages were good, the prospects were bright, and there was no reason for dissatisfaction, nor a thought of it. Then came the war, with its increase of prices on every commodity. The thousands who hastened to the front to save the country from the impending dissolution increased the demand for labor of every character, both skilled and unskilled, and the wages paid for mining and iron-working reached the highest point that has ever been recorded. With the surrender, prosperity increased. Throughout the entire North every industry boomed. The next few years saw the association of capital expand enterprises in every direction, and work wonders throughout the country. The recuperative powers of the Nation, which astonished the civilized world, were particularly felt in such manufacturing and productive centers as the valley had come to be, and were, of course, followed by a disregard of due

economy in both personal and domestic expenditure. Both labor and capital began to develop the arrogance that insensibly grows from unbroken and unprecedented success, and, in their own conceit, to forget the interdependence which, in its due recognition, had done so much to achieve all that had been mutually beneficial. The conditions, too, had changed vastly. In great aggregations of men, personalities are necessarily lost, and with them the influence which they always exert. The day when the individual worker was personally known to his employer had passed. He had been removed from his sphere of observation or influence by all of the cumbersome departmental system which seems to be inseparable from the successful management of great concerns. Corporations had taken the place of individual owners, general regulations that of personal direction, and all of this had co-operated to the gradual crystallization and differentiation of the community into the two classes which represent two great potentialities of modern civilization.

It was toward the close of the first half decade after the war that the reaction from venturesome speculation began to be felt all over the country. The era of unprecedented prosperity had made men reckless, and now the more conservative began to grow cautious. There had been a gradual



falling off of prices from the war rates, and yet production had gone on steadily increasing, and the prices paid for labor in the coal regions remained much the same. The great producing companies found that they could not make money without a reduction in the price per car paid for mining coal, and it was accordingly made. On May 25, 1869, the first general strike occurred in this region. Demand had been made for an advance of ten cents per car, and the Delaware and Hudson Company refused to accede to it. A similar demand was made of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, and was similarly met. The strike lasted until the latter part of August following and was then ended by mutual concessions. During this time there was but little violence, and none that was the result of organized effort to coerce the employers. Of course business was decidedly disturbed by the suspension, and some little lawlessness prevailed at various points, the Rockwell Breaker being burned at this time; but there was nothing to seriously threaten law and order, though it was evident to the thinking ones that this preconcerted action, growing, as it did, out of the constantly forming secret organizations, presaged no good and would eventually present serious problems to be met and dealt with.

The next year brought forth fruit. It was what has since been known as "The Long Strike," and extended to the mines of the Schuylkill Region as well. This was brought about also by the announcement of a reduction. The price of coal had been steadily falling and the amount placed by the companies as what they could pay was much less than the miners anticipated, although they had expected some reduction. This strike commenced on February 4, 1871, and continued for many months, and was signalized near its close by the first conflict to death that the valley had known. For several months there had been many efforts to arrive at some agreement, both among the carrying companies and the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, under whose auspices the strike was inaugurated. The State authorities had been invoked in aid of some of the propositions made, and the Supreme Court was appealed to, but all to no purpose. Politics became mixed up in the matter, and a Workingmen's Party was organized; the State Legislature, through a committee appointed by the Senate, took a hand, but all to no purpose. Meanwhile work was resumed in the Schuylkill Region, and some of the German miners in this valley decided to go to work at the Hampton Mines. They at once became the object of hatred with the strikers, and a number of lawless acts were committed to intimidate "the black-

legs," as the would-be workers were called. All through April, and until nearly the middle of May, the valley was aroused by accounts of demonstrations, and it finally became necessary to obtain military aid, and part of the Fifteenth Regiment was sent up from Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton. There was a serious accident by which some of the militia lost their lives, and unprotected men at various mines were beaten and wounded. Matters came to such a pass that it was deemed advisable to arm the miners so that they could go to and from their work without molestation, and out of this grew the tragedy which brought the strike to a close, but which left behind it a bitter feeling which demagogues and agitators fostered and used as a lash to goad the thoughtless and dissatisfied on to more desperate deeds a few years later. On the seventeenth of May some thirty miners were returning to their homes in Hyde Park, after completing their day's work at the Hampton Mines. They were accompanied by a detachment of soldiers and ten laborers armed with Winchester rifles. As they reached the old Fellows' Corners they were attacked by a crowd of about two hundred Welsh miners and their wives, who hurled vile epithets at them. When these failed to provoke any response a volley of stones followed. Thus brought at bay, one of the

guard fired, and two men were killed, while the crowd fled.

The circumstances which led to the great strike of 1877, the last which afflicted this community, are too fresh in the minds of those interested to need more than a passing notice. The panic of '73 had caused widespread depression, and the contraction of every line of business caused a continual falling in the price of coal. The first reduction of ten per cent. was made at the close of 1874. Although there was a strong effort on the part of some of the labor organizers to create a strike at this time, the good sense of the miners was sufficient to withstand the agitation and little came of it. During the two years that followed the quota assigned by the arrangements of the carrying companies caused the mines to run only on two-thirds time, and, at the close of this season, another reduction of fifteen per cent. was announced. Again an effort was made to incite the miners to a strike, but the more conservative of them considered wisely their condition and successfully opposed any such action.

The year 1877 will be remembered all over the country as one of not only great depression, but of terrible, devastating and bloody labor troubles, extending over a widespread area. Pittsburg,

Buffalo, Reading and a number of other great centers were terrorized, and the entire business of the country was prostrated. At Scranton the principal difficulty was to be found in an excess of mine labor, and the fomenting of discontent among all classes of workmen by petty politicians and paid agitators, some of whom were attempting to utilize the contrasts which riches and poverty present to their own political advantage, and prostitute the purposes of the legitimate trade organizations to their self-aggrandizement. All this had its due effect, and, on July 24, the employes of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, numbering more than a thousand, stopped work at noon, and that afternoon a similar action took place among the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western firemen and engineers. The next day the strike had extended to the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's men. All of these employes went out because they had made demands for advances in wages to which the companies found it impossible to accede under the existing depressed business conditions. The great body of idle men thus forced upon the community was largely augmented by an army of idlers from other cities, and the low mutterings of discontent excited forebodings in the minds of all of the thinking men of the community. All of the militia in the city had been sent to Pittsburg to aid in the suppression of

the riots there, and, singularly enough, there were many in the city who had the cause of the strikers at heart, or at least gave them reason to think so from motives of policy, and thus increased the danger, should there an emergency for action arise. The address of the Mayor, counseling obedience to law and order, and the strenuous efforts that he was making to adjust the difficulties excited hope that all might pass off tranquilly, and blinded many to the real danger cloud that was forming. Meetings of a secret character were being held in every quarter, and these did not escape the alert eyes and ears of some of the younger men of the city, who, circulating around in public places, detected, from the hints dropped, the trouble that was brewing.

It is not necessary to deal in detail with all of the events which immediately preceded the riot and its heroic quelling on August 1, 1877. They have been fully and elaborately exploited many times and are the subject of a voluminous memoir. So, too, the story of that memorable firing, the attempted vengeance of the friends of the mob by the assassination of all of the participants under cloak of law, their timely rescue, the trial, and the vindication—all of these are well recorded and stand for the honor of the city. In these proceedings I acted only the part of any other good



citizen, giving such counsel as my wit, and such aid as my purse possessed in the cause of right and justice. It was a time that tried the temper and good offices of all of us, and such efforts as I put forth were in the direction of well-considered co-operation on the part of all to meet the trying requirements of the ordeal wherein so much of love, liberty, and perhaps life, were at stake. From the moment that the necessity of a posse became evident I was convinced of the wisdom of organizing a permanent military force, composed of the best material, to make final and decisive the victory over lawlessness that had just been secured.

The citizens' meeting, which had been called by a number of prominent business and professional men, on the day after the riot, and at which there had been given a complete endorsement of the course taken by the posse, gave great encouragement to those who were anxious to form such an organization. A few of them met in the hall over the Second National Bank, and the matter was quite fully discussed. I then and there assured them that if they desired to form a company I would take the responsibility of seeing it armed and equipped on my own shoulders, for I felt that there would be hearty co-operation among all the best elements of the city. On the morning of the

seventh, just one week after the riot, a paper was addressed to Hon. George Sanderson, the president of the citizens' meeting, and a number of those who, at it, had commended the action of the corps. It set forth the fact that one hundred and over of the best young men in the city were willing to organize a body legally constituted to preserve the peace of the community in case of emergency. Meanwhile I had been diligently circulating a subscription paper, and had raised several hundred dollars for the proper armament of the guard. That evening, when there was a general meeting of the citizens at the company's store, where the Mayor had made his headquarters ever since the riot, these facts were made known by Mr. H. A. Kingsbury, who "reported that assurances had been received from Dr. B. H. Throop of his co-operation, and that he had already taken the matter in hand, and had given his convictions that the citizens generally would support the movement to organize an independent military company.\*"

At this meeting a committee was appointed to consider the best means of perfecting such an organization, and, after thoroughly canvassing the matter, it was decided that a battalion of four com-

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\* "A City's Danger and Defense."—*Rev. S. C. Logan.*

panies should be formed. This, of course, meant a much greater outlay than had been at first anticipated, or than I had intended to guarantee to give or raise. I had in hand or subscribed nearly a thousand dollars, and this was abundant for the single company at first contemplated. In raising this amount I had been materially assisted by Mr. H. A. Kingsbury, and as we had circulated our list we had met with a ready acquiescence from all whom we asked to co-operate with us. When the order for the measurement for uniforms of the full four companies, which had meanwhile been ordered by the board of officers, was presented a dilemma arose as to how they should be paid for, and I was again called in consultation with the major and others. The result of this conference was the issuance of the following, which appeared in *The Scranton Republican* of the twenty-third :

#### TO THE CITIZENS OF SCRANTON.

*Attention : Gentlemen !*

At a meeting of the law and order loving citizens of Scranton, on the second of August, resolutions were unanimously adopted recognizing the obligations of the city to the Mayor's "special police," constituted of our brave young men, who met and dispersed the mob on the first instant and kept the city in safety until the troops arrived. The undersigned, then and afterwards, were appointed a committee to circulate a paper endorsing and encouraging any effort to organize a permanent military force for the protection of the city, pledging the signers to such co-

operation and support as might be needed to properly furnish and equip it under the laws of the State. We have prosecuted this work with energy and are now ready to report. Four military companies have been organized of the very best young men of our city, and are required by the Governor to be mustered for inspection on the eleventh of September next. No time is to be lost. Your committee has gone as far as it can without further instructions. We therefore call a meeting of all law and order loving citizens of Scranton, at the Academy of Music, on Friday evening, the twenty-fourth instant, at half past seven o'clock, to hear the report of the committee and take such action as the exigency requires.

(Signed) B. H. THROOP, M. D.,  
S. C. LOGAN,  
H. M. BOIES,  
H. A. KINGSBURY.

The response to this call was not as large as might have been expected, but those who did attend were thoroughly in earnest and it was not without its decided fruits. It was organized by the selection of a chairman and a number of vice-presidents from among the leading men of the city, and the report of the committee was then made through the writer, who detailed the work that had already been accomplished. Some nine hundred and fifty dollars had already been subscribed—all and more than he had guaranteed personally to raise. Since he had offered to be individually responsible for the equipment of the single independent company, contemplated at the

meeting where this offer was made, it had been seen fit to expand it to four companies. This meant a good deal more money, at least \$3,000. After canvassing the field as he had, and knowing how narrow it was, it seemed to him that in such a pressing emergency the quickest way would be for each one to increase his individual subscription, and he ended by doubling his own. This incited others to action and, before the meeting had closed, \$1,500 had been guaranteed. In due course of time the battalion was equipped, provided with an armory, and finally merged into the Thirteenth Regiment, all of which has oft been told. Both organizations more than fulfilled all expectations, and have ever received the loyal support of the best elements of the community, and it is safe to say that none of those who were active in the formative days have ever had reason to regret any energy that was put forth. The presence of a well disciplined and completely organized force of men who have the courage of their convictions as to the necessity of the proper maintenance of law and order has had the most salutary effect on the elements which, in other localities, are inclined to be troublesome. Soon after the organization of the battalion the scalawag element, which was in the main responsible for the riot, found the locality a decidedly uncomfortable one, and betook themselves to other fields and

pastures new, and none have ever returned. The guard, which Colonel Ripple\* so ably commands, is to-day as much the pride of the honest workers of the valley as it is the reliance of every man whose interests are centered in the valley.

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\* Ezra H. Ripple is, and for many years has been, a prominent figure in Scranton. He is the only son of Silas and Elizabeth (Harris) Ripple, and was born at Mauch Chunk, February 11, 1842. He came, with his parents to Hyde Park, in 1857, and four years later, the death of his father left him the entire care of both the business and the family. Colonel Ripple had received a substantial common school education, and had supplemented this with a full course at Eastman's College, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. This was but the beginning, however, and, although one of the city's busiest and most active men, few, if any, have found time for more thorough culture, or can boast of better selected and well-kenned books, and a wider range of practical information than he. When the call came for emergency men, to resist the threatened invasion of the State, he was one of the first to volunteer, and in July, 1864, he was captured at Charlestown, S. C., and confined for three months in the Andersonville Prison, and for five in the Florence Stockade, where the horrors of a military prison did not daunt his brave spirit. From Florence he was successful in making his escape, but was detected, and tracked by blood-hounds, which overtook him in the swamps, and with which he had a desperate struggle for life, until recaptured by their owners.

During the disturbances of 1877, he was an active participant, and a wise counselor in preserving the peace and dignity of the city and, on the organization of the Battalion, was chosen as one of the captains of the four companies which composed it. On its consolidation with the Thirteenth Regiment, he was commissioned Major, and in due recognition of the many qualities which so eminently fit him, has succeeded to its Colonelcy. Colonel Ripple was elected the first Treasurer of Lackawanna County, in 1879, and was also the choice of the people for Mayor of the city, in 1886, both of which positions he filled with that credit that has always marked his every act of public and private life. He is identified with many of the material concerns of the city, as well as its leading philanthropies, and is beloved and respected by all who know him.





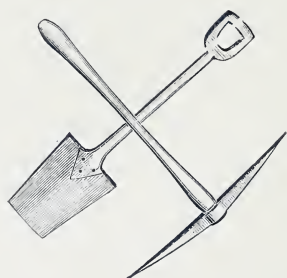
ATLANTA: FULTON AND ENGRAVING CO. N.Y.

Geo. W. Ripple



It stands as a guarantee that the rights of the humblest as well as the most conspicuous citizen shall be respected in every particular, and the dignity and sanctity of the law shall ever be maintained.





## CHAPTER NINETEENTH.

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### SOME TOWNS ADJACENT.

The Transition Along the Valley—Mount Vernon and Its Founder—Jermyn, and Its Enterprise—Archbald, Winton, Peckville, Olyphant—The Laying Out of Priceburg, and the Incorporation of Throop.

THE remarkable development of Scranton, during the past half century, is not more interesting than has been the evolution of some of the towns in its immediate vicinity, now tributary to it, and destined eventually to become integral portions of it. Wherever its enterprise has located industries, there have thriving communities sprung up, and their rapid evolution into towns has kept pace with the progress of the parent city. The system of rapid transit has added to the impetus they had attained in the last few years, and half a decade has seen a number of them incorporated as boroughs, and making rapid strides toward cityhood. It would be interesting



to have the annals of each of them collected, and suitably compiled; but that must be left for some younger and more ambitious contributor. Scarce one of them had a scrap of local history, when I came into the valley. Many were not even known by any particular name. They were simply a part of a vast tract of unimproved land, covered with dreary forest, roadless, and with only here and there a rude cabin, where some venturesome hunter or lumberman had made his humble home. Some of the most thriving are located in what was, and is still known as the Township of Blakely, which, according to Dr. Hollister, received its name in honor of Captain Johnston Blakely, who commanded the United States Sloop of War, *Wasp*, and was in several brilliant engagements.

This township was erected out of Providence, in 1818, and includes Carbondale, Archbald, Olyphant, Peckville, Winton, Throop and many other thriving towns. It was at Mount Vernon, where the late Lewis Watres\* had located, in 1837, that one of the first churches in the valley was erected by him, at almost entirely his own expense.

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\* Lewis S. Watres, Esq., was born in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, in 1808. When twenty-seven years of age he settled in the Lackawanna Valley, at a beautiful little spot, which he called Mount Vernon, ten miles from Scranton, and now called Winton. Mr. Watres purchased four hundred acres of land at that place, and began develop-



At this time, 1837, there were only a few hamlets, and his activity at the opening of what was then a great lumber enterprise for this section, made him a conspicuous figure in the community.

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ing his timber interests, and opened a successful market for it at Ellensville, New Jersey, and points on the Delaware River, to which the lumber was transported by taking it first to Honesdale and Port Jervis by sled or wagon, and thence by raft to its destination. One year after his settlement here, Mr. Watres was made Justice of the Peace of Blakely Township, in which office, as in all the positions of his life, he had the respect and unbounded confidence of everyone with whom he came in contact.

In 1837, Mr. Watres erected the first church built in the Lackawanna Valley, at Pecktown. It was a Presbyterian Church, built by subscription, but aside from twelve dollars paid by subscribers, the entire cost was borne by the builder. To Mr. Watres also belongs the credit of opening up one of the first coal mines in the Lackawanna Valley below Carbondale.

At the breaking out of the Rebellion, he recruited a company of men, and reported at Harrisburg for duty. His company was mustered in with the Fifty-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment, but Mr. Watres had an affliction of asthma, which prevented his going to the front. Later, he again took a company to Harrisburg, which was mustered into the Fifty-sixth Regular Pennsylvania Volunteers; but again his health prevented his entering active service in defense of the country he loved so well.

In 1865, he removed with his family to Scranton, and in the year following, was elected Alderman of the Ninth Ward, to which office he was successively re-elected until the time of his death, in 1882.

No man, perhaps, ever lived in the valley who had more friends and fewer enemies than Alderman Watres. In every relation of life he was tender, sympathetic and loyal, and he possessed a strength of character which served him well and made him conspicuous among his fellows.

Mr. Watres' wife was a talented poetess, who, as "Stella of the Lackawanna," was well known and greatly admired. His four children still survive: Mrs. John L. Hull, Charles Watres, Hon. Louis Arthur Watres, Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Carrie W. Lovell, wife of Judge Edward C. Lovell, of Elgin, Ill.

He was connected with all of the public-spirited movements which engrossed the attention of the time, and was one of the most ardent advocates of the slack-water navigation project, co-operating with us in every possible way.

The transition that has taken place all along the valley between Scranton and Carbondale since first I drove my weary nag down to Razorville, is one that can scarcely be comprehended, except by the older residents. Even the past ten years have witnessed marvelous changes, and so rapid and marked have been the improvements at every point that it is well-nigh impossible for a retracing mind to recall them, either chronologically or even in outline. In every direction breakers rear their heads, and the clouds of steam, the many interweaving lines of rail, the spires of churches, the sound of school bells, the whistle of the locomotives, and a thousand sounds which go to make up the busy hum of industry, form a strange contrast to the primitive conditions which I beheld.

A drive from Carbondale through the outskirts of that city, now extending rapidly down the valley, brings one to Jermyn, named in honor of John Jermyn,\* who is one of those that can show what

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\* John Jermyn was born in Suffolk, England, in 1827. He was denied the advantages of a thorough education, and early in life was thrown upon his own resources, and was obliged to make his own way

pluck, energy and honest determination can do, afforded by the progress of the valley. Where, half a century ago, there came gurgling down into the Lackawanna one of the prettiest trout brooks in all this section, and alive with trout, there now stands a thriving village. The brook was nameless then. Subsequently one or two settlers built near it, and the name of one of them was taken as a designation of the location they had chosen. As the defile, and the mountain side adjacent, began to be cleared, and others came to join the first settlers, a straggling village sprung up, and to this the name of Rushdale was given. This, in time, gave way to Baconville, and that in turn to Gib-

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in the world. After various vicissitudes, he drifted to London, from which point, in company with a number of others who had heard of the opportunities which the New World afforded, started for America, and, in the spring of 1847, landed in New York, with scarcely more capital than a pair of strong arms and a brave heart. His attention was directed to Slocum's Hollow, and the possibilities for employment that it might afford, and thither he came. His first work was done as has been described, and so faithfully did he perform his task that his services were in demand. His zeal and honesty commended him, and it was not long before he had several small contracts, and began to employ others to aid him. One of the most important of these was to open the Diamond Mines, and he was the first man to break the ground for the undertaking, for he never scorned labor, and was ever ready to set the example of industry. This contract was pushed to a successful issue, and, in 1854, he secured another to open the mines at the Notch, known as Rockwell's Mines. Several other lucrative contracts followed, and all were so satisfactorily executed that he was finally enabled to secure a most advantageous arrangement for the coal on the Gibson Estate, at Rushdale, as it was then known. It proved to be a most important step for him, and laid the foundation for the fortune which he has since accumulated. The mines had thus

sonburg, in 1869, when the borough was incorporated, most of the lands in the vicinity having been purchased by the late William Gibson. It is a thriving place, with a number of manufacturing industries, outside of its mining interests, to give it prosperity, and half a mile below it are located the powder works of the Moosic Company, which also add to its trade.

Archbald was a wilderness until 1844, and along the banks of White Oak Run was a favorite hunting ground where deer from the mountains, as they attempted to ford the river, fell under the sharp crack of the settlers' rifles. These were substan-

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far been a failure and operations at them had been abandoned for several years. Nevertheless, Mr. Jermyn was convinced that there was money to be made out of the venture, and with that pluck and perseverance that had been characteristic of him, and against the advice of all his friends, he put in new and improved machinery, and, in 1865, opened the plant. He succeeded in securing two new leases of one million tons each, in addition to the one million of the original lease, and, in the next few years succeeded in delivering the entire output, and placing himself among the wealthiest operators of the valley. Since that time he has become prominently identified with many of the enterprises of the valley, and has shown a most commendable public spirit, making some of the greatest improvements in the character of the commercial buildings of the city, and the other towns with which he has become identified. He is one of the largest individual owners of Scranton real estate, and the wisdom and sagacity which has attended him in all of his coal ventures, has not deserted him in this new field.

In 1853, Mr. Jermyn married a daughter of Joseph Knight, Esq., and three sons and two daughters are the fruit of the union. Upright, honest and industrious, Mr. Jermyn merits the confidence that is reposed in him by all who know him, as well as the magnificent harvest that he has reaped from his arduous labors.

tially the conditions, when Mr. James Archbald,\* for whom the place was named, and Mr. Clarkson came to open the mines. A small foot-bridge was thrown across the stream at the mouth of the run, and a blacksmith shop and a few dwellings for workmen were erected. From this small beginning it has grown steadily to the present thriving town of five thousand inhabitants, principally from

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\* James Archbald was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. His father was one of the sturdy Scotch yeomen of the last century. His mother was descended from Wodrow, the famous preacher, and was the granddaughter of Wodrow, the Historian. She had been a carefully nurtured minister's daughter, and it was from her that James Archbald inherited a taste for music, art, and general culture, which he improved in his maturer years. When James was about twelve years old, his father emigrated to New York State, and settled in the Mohawk Valley. Here his boyhood was spent at agricultural pursuits, lumbering and trading. His naturally bright mind, although denied scholastic advantages, except for a very short period, prompted him to seize every opportunity for reading and study, and he did so profitably. When the Erie Canal was building, he took a contract thereon, and filled it so successfully that Mr. Jervis gave him a position on the engineer corps. From thence he went with the latter to aid in the construction of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, and, when the mines were opened at Carbondale, in 1829, he was appointed Superintendent. When the Pennsylvania Coal Company commenced the construction of its road, Mr. Archbald prepared the plans for it also. He had devised the Gravity System on the road over the mountain from Carbondale, and the same plan was adopted here. When Col. George W. Scranton was obliged to abandon his position as General Agent of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, on account of increasing ill health, Mr. Archbald was selected by the directors to succeed him, and, in 1858, he became Chief Engineer of the road, a position which he held up to his death, in 1870. When Carbondale was incorporated as a city, he was elected its Mayor, and held that position four terms, or until his removal to Scranton. He was a man of great simplicity of character and purity of life, and a favorite with all of his employes.



the mining industry carried on by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company; but now it commences to have some other manufactories and does a good mercantile business. One of its prominent and successful manufactories is a knitting mill, which was established there in 1881, and has been of much value to the town in giving employment to the women and girls. Its excellent streets, fine churches, and creditable business blocks show how substantial has been its progress.

The Town of Winton, which lies pleasantly situated but a mile below, and is practically connected by a continuous street, owes its existence to the coal operations of W. W. Winton, Esq.,\* and in reality had its foundation day when his breaker was opened there, in 1874. It, too, has grown amazingly, and is well equipped with all the modern conveniences, and bids fair to merge into its neighbors. Already several other indus-

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\* W. W. Winton was born in the Town of Butternuts, Otsego County, New York, in 1815. He received a liberal education and, when his father moved to Providence, in 1833, the son, fresh from school, began to act as Village School Master. He then engaged in the lumber business, and the field of his operations was on the Parsonage Lot, and near where the blast furnaces now stand. He again began teaching in the new "Bell School House," and afterward went to Danville, where he read law. In 1842, he opened a store at Wallsville, with Hon. A. B. Dunning as clerk. Afterward both returned to Providence, where for a number of years, they conducted a mercantile business under the style of Winton & Dunning. He commenced the banking business





*Galaxy Pub. Co. Philadelphia.*

*W. W. Winton.*



tries have been added to its resources than those directly connected with the coal business, and all seem to thrive.

Peckville has lumber as its principal industry, and the major portion of its working population is employed in the large saw mills, planing mills and other establishments for the fabrication of forest products. While most of the timber has been cut out of all this section, some considerable pine and hemlock are to be found on the other side of the mountain, and this is easily reached from Peckville, and is controlled by the parties operating there. It has good churches, schools, stores and all the requisites to supply the wants of its inhabitants, and is a thrifty place.

Olyphant consisted of nothing but a saw mill and a couple of log houses until 1558. The lands there had passed into the hands of William Hull, who lived across the river, and he had steadfastly refused to sell or lease them to the Delaware and

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next door to the St. Charles Hotel, and then established the First National Bank of Providence, which was subsequently merged into the Second National Bank of Scranton. He was the founder of the Presbyterian Church, at Providence, and gave the lots on which the building stands. He also made a number of additions to the various portions of the city, and to Winton and Peckville. He was enterprising, public-spirited and courageous, as well as very kind hearted. He aided many, and had their gratitude. Mr. Winton married Miss Catherine, the daughter of Henry Heermans, and left five children. He died December 30, 1894.

Hudson Company for some reason or other. The company had already secured a large tract below the Hull lands, and when Hon. Lewis Pughe and Edward Jones and others secured a lease from Hull, and at the same time for other tracts adjoining, and also made contracts with the company, the work of development at once commenced. Since that time the town has grown steadily, and is supplied with water, electric lights, and all that goes to make it a desirable place of residence for those who find occupation there.

Among the early settlers, about a mile below Olyphant, were Luke and Michael Decker, who each had fairly improved farms, some twenty-five years ago. One of these, consisting of about fifty-eight acres, I bought at sixty-five dollars an acre. Immediately adjoining me Mr. Eli K. Price and Dr. Pancoast also made purchases, and the village which sprung up was called Priceburg, in honor of Mr. Price. In 1880, John Jermyn sunk a shaft and erected a large breaker, and an influx of population followed. This mine was leased to the Pancoast Coal Company, in March, 1881, and now employs some seven hundred hands. The town was laid out in a symmetrical fashion, the sale of lots was at once begun, and buildings of a neat and substantial character began to appear in every direction. It is now duly incorporated.

During the year 1888, a paper was drawn up, signed by a number of the prominent residents of that portion of the Borough of Dickson City, and then known as the Village of Throop, for the purpose of creating a new borough out of that portion of the borough lying on the southeast side of the Lackawanna River. By request of Mr. W. R. Storrs, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, these papers were not used.

A new petition was circulated, and presented to the Grand Jury in April, 1893, and the creation of the borough was recommended. In November, 1893, Judge R. W. Archbald set aside the report of the Grand Jury, and, on technicalities, refused to create the borough.

A new petition was immediately circulated and presented to Court on July 4, 1894. This petition was signed by all but eight of the resident property owners, and, after a hot fight before the Grand Jury, that body recommended the division. On April 16, 1894, Judge Archbald confirmed the report of the Grand Jury and handed down a decree incorporating the Village of Throop into a borough, to be known as the Borough of Throop. Following is an excerpt from a Scranton paper

of April 18, 1894, illustrating the enthusiasm of the Throopites over their victory:

“Never was the natal day of American Independence celebrated by the people of a community with greater eclat than was the celebration given at Throop yesterday by the inhabitants of that infant borough, in honor of the severance of the bonds of union which connected them with the apron strings of Dickson City for the past quarter of a century. From the topmost pinnacle of the high tower of the Pancoast Coal Company’s shaft, the Stars and Stripes floated proudly to the breeze, which emblem also adorned the Pancoast Coal Company’s store and all of the private residences in the beautiful little village. The colliery was idle during the entire day, and at noon the schools were closed to give the young and old an opportunity to celebrate. The people in general donned holiday attire.

“At 3 P. M., the time announced for the procession to move, the people, young and old, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, assembled at the starting point, in front of the Company Store, and awaited the procession to move. Messrs. C. D. Sanderson and H. W. Bellman appeared to be the leading spirits in the gathering. Carriages and horses, gaily decorated, were formed in line to receive and convey the enthusiastic citizens, with their invited guests, in making a circuit of the new borough. The procession was led by a barouche, containing Mr. C. M. Sanderson \*

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\* Clarence M. Sanderson was born in West Cambridge, now Arlington, Massachusetts, in 1829, and was the son of Benjamin Lawrence Sanderson and Miss Mary Cutter Cooke, both of whom were direct descendants of passengers on the Mayflower. Mr. C. M. Sanderson attended the common schools of West Cambridge until he was about thirteen years old, and then went to Vermont. On attaining his majority, he went to the copper mining region of Lake Superior. In





*Thos & Rob Stanton Pa*

*CM Anderson*



and Dr. B. H. Throop, in honor of whom the new borough has been named, followed by one containing Mr. C. D. Sanderson, Charles Dudley Sanderson, Jr., H. W. and E. R. Bellman, and Mr. Thomas Monahan. A party of bicyclists, representatives of the press and many prominent citizens of the new borough, the gaily decorated hose carriage and other features made the occasion one to be remembered."

A special election was ordered by the Court on May 1, and the following officers were elected: Burgess, John Sykes; Councilmen, John H. Law, Thomas Monahan, John E. Evans, William Collier, Owen McCormick and Luke Kelly; School Directors, Charles D. Sanderson, H. W. Bellman, John B. Walker, John Lavin, John Brown and Edward McNealis.

On the date of its incorporation the borough had a population of one thousand six hundred and thirty-nine, with two hundred and sixty-six dwellings, nine hotels, eight stores, two store-houses, two churches, one graded school-house (employing

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1865, he returned to Boston, and engaged in the coal business, as a member of the firm of Huddell & Co. In 1876, he removed to Pittston, and opened the Phoenix Mine there. On the organization of the Pancoast Coal Company, in 1880, he was elected its President, which office he still holds. Mr. Sanderson married, in 1851, a daughter of Hon. John Wait, of Vermont. She died in 1864. In 1866, he married Mrs. Eliza A. Bellman. He has three children, his eldest son, C. D. Sanderson, being the Superintendent of the Pancoast Coal Company.

four teachers), one small school (employing one teacher), one butcher shop and one colliery (employing seven hundred hands). The number of registered voters were two hundred and seventy-seven. Throop is reached by the Scranton Division of the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad, and a neat depot has been built. The Postoffice was created on July 5, 1882, and a commission as Postmaster was issued to Charles D. Sanderson, who has held the office ever since.

On April 26, 1894, Throop Hose Company, No. 1, was organized, and named in honor of the late Dr. George S. Throop. During the year 1894, considerable territory has been laid out into building lots. New streets have been opened, and here and there one sees neat dwellings in course of erection that are a credit to any community.

A Borough Hall of ornate design has recently been completed. It contains a council room, apartments for the hose company, for the Burgess, and the Chief of Police, a lock-up, and on the first floor is a public hall. The site for the building was given to the borough by Price, Pancoast and Throop. A Hungarian Catholic Church is about to be erected, and a public park and a cemetery are probable improvements of the near future.

## CHAPTER TWENTIETH.

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### A WORD AT CLOSING.

The Scranton Postoffice—The First Milk Route—Express Facilities Established—The Press and Its Work—Hollister's History—Some Facts About Early Hyde Park—Vale.

IN bringing to a close these reminiscences of half a century of active life in the Lackawanna Valley, and in glancing over the pages already written, I become aware how many details have been omitted that might have proved of interest to the friends at whose instance, and for whose gratification these chapters have been prepared. Already the notes, which I simply intended to expand a trifle and put in a more enduring form than was originally given them, have become voluminous, and the task has become irksome; yet there are one or two things which I must yet touch on briefly. One of these is the Postoffice.

It is quite probable that a mail route passed through this township some years before any Postoffice had been established in what is now comprised within the territorial limits of Scranton. The main line of travel between Pittston and the upper waters of the Delaware traversed the valley, and over this the first pony riders went. On the tenth of January, 1811, an office called "Providence," after the name of the township, was established; but it was not located at Razorville immediately. Mr. Benjamin Slocum was the first Postmaster, and he lived at the old Slocum Forge, then called Unionville, where were the principal mills, distilleries, and other industries of the settlement, and the office was at his house, or upper distillery, as it was called, which stood about where the blast furnaces are now.

Mr. Slocum served for several years, and then resigned in favor of Mr. John Vaughn, who removed the office to his store, on the southeast side of Razorville Corners, which were then called "Centerville" \* by some. It always remained in

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\* "As the village (Providence), from these causes (the completion of the Drinker Turnpike, and the establishment of a tri-weekly stage from Philadelphia) began to grow in importance, Slocum Hollow, shorn of its glory by the abandonment of its forge and stills, was judged by the Department at Washington as being too obscure a point for a Postoffice, as the receipts for the year 1827 averaged only \$3.37½ per quarter. The office was removed the next year to its thrifter rival."—*Hollister*.



Providence after that, until merged into the carrier system of the city, in October, 1883.

The Postoffice at Hyde Park was established, July 14, 1832, and Hon. William Merrifield was the first Postmaster. After serving but a short time his removal from the place necessitated a successor and Robert Merrifield, his father, succeeded him for three years, or until William once more located in Hyde Park, and was again made the Postmaster. It was in his store that I found the office located when I first visited Hyde Park, in October, 1840.

As the iron works of Messrs. Scrantons, Grant & Co. began to prosper, and houses for the workmen employed in the furnaces and mills, sprang up on this side of the river, by far the largest of the mail-receiving part of the community was centered there, nevertheless residents of this side of the river were deprived of postoffice facilities, and had to depend entirely on Hyde Park and Providence. An early effort was made to obtain one here, but this side of the river had always been intensely Whig, as well as a temperance community, and had but little sympathy from the Democratic power that predominated in old Luzerne. However, after a time, permission was given to Mr. John W. Moore, who had opened the first tailor shop in the Hollow—or Harrison, as it was

then called, in honor of that President's recent election—to take the mail matter from Hyde Park to his store, and there distribute it to the persons to whom it was addressed. Soon he tired of the thankless task, and induced Mr. Amsden to assume the "Postmastership." He, too, soon desired a release from the position, as there were no facilities for conducting the business properly.

About this time I erected a dwelling and drug store, on the street that was destroyed by the construction of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, and about where Clark & Snover had their tobacco factory, until a few years ago. It was a two-story frame structure, and at the front end of the counter a desk was arranged to give ample facilities for handling the mail. I was appointed Postmaster by S. R. Hobie, May 6, 1853, and commissioned by Franklin Pierce, February 4, 1857, and continued under the administration of President Buchanan. The office was in charge of E. C. Fuller, my deputy, for all these years, or until L. S. Fuller, his brother, was appointed my successor. This office was in reality the first Post-office in Scranton, and it was under my administration that mails were first brought here without being extracted at Hyde Park, and carried by Mr. Moore in a leathern satchel.

The name of the office was at first called Harrison, but was soon changed to Scranton, in honor of the gentlemen who had been so active in establishing the works. That the two final letters were dropped came about subsequently, and during Mr. Fuller's administration. When the subject of establishing an office was first agitated, during the time that my drug store was in process of erection, the matter of a proper name was one of considerable discussion. Quite a number felt that the Messrs. Scranton were entitled to the compliment, and among one of the most conspicuous in this opinion was Rev. J. D. Mitchell, who, like myself, was a very warm friend of the Scrantons. It was suggested that he write to the representative of this district, with whom he was well acquainted, and request that the name Scranton be substituted for that of Harrison, which had been used in the petitions already sent on. This he agreed to do and, when the commission came, the change had been made. Later, by general consent, the letters "ia" were dropped, and an order to that effect was subsequently issued by the department.

The names of those who have filled the office since my appointment are: L. S. Fuller, Duglass Jay, A. H. Coursen, W. H. Pier, M. D.; J. S. Slocum, J. A. Scranton, E. C. Fuller, D. W. Con-

nelly, D. M. Jones, and the present incumbent, Frank M. Vandling. The free delivery system was put in force during Mr. Scranton's administration.

As the Hollow commenced to fill up with men, who were employed about the new works, and there was less of agriculture in the immediate vicinity, it began to experience one of the difficulties which always attend new and rapidly-forming communities. There was a scarcity of fresh beef, and more especially of milk. This latter was a serious deprivation. There were many families who had young children, and in my daily rounds I found not a few little babies who were actually suffering. The parents had not been able to get a cow, and the supply in the neighborhood was entirely inadequate. After vainly endeavoring to persuade some one to go into the milk business as a commercial venture, I determined to do it myself as a matter of public spirit. In 1845 I secured the services of Jacob Teeter, and purchased thirty or forty cows, which I put on the Kilmer farm, where there was excellent pasturage. The proper facilities for serving it out were secured, and Teeter and John Coursen peddled it at a minimum cost to me. This was the first regularly established milk route in the city, and proved a decided boon to those whose circumstances did not warrant the

ownership of a cow, but who had to have a limited supply of this necessity.

From a similar desire to promote the interests of the new town, I was driven into another branch of business. It was very difficult to get small parcels to and from the outside world, and particularly to New York. The opening of the Leggett's Gap Road, in 1851, had caused all the stage lines to be abandoned, and there was no express office nearer than Great Bend. There was such constant complaint, that when I was appointed Postmaster, I determined to obviate the inconvenience. I therefore established an express line, connecting with the other companies at Great Bend, and making through rates. I had a regular messenger on each train, and the office was adjacent to the Post-office, at my drug store. This line continued for a number of years, and was finally sold to the American Express Company.

The first newspaper ever established in Scranton was *The Mirror and Lackawannian*, which was started in Providence, in 1845, by Franklin B. Woodward, and when the matter was first canvassed amongst us, as he said, the object was to be the agitation of a new county, I helped that along a little too. Soon afterward it developed a quite different tone on other matters, and I sold out.

The paper was discontinued about 1847. *The Lackawanna Herald* was the next to appear, and this was the first to be published in the borough of Scranton. It was afterward merged with *The Spirit of the Valley*, under the name of *The Herald of the Union*, which in time became *The Register*. This passed into the hands of E. S. M. Hill, the first Mayor of Scranton, and was made a daily in 1867, but passed out of existence in about two years. *The Scranton Weekly Republican* was established by Theodore Smith, of Montrose, in 1856. After passing through several vicissitudes of ownership, it became the property of Hon. Joseph A. Scranton,\* under whose successful man-

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\*Joseph A. Scranton was born in Madison, Connecticut, July 26, 1838, and is the eldest son of Joseph H. Scranton, and the only child by his first wife, Eliza M. Wilcox, of that place. He was educated in the New England schools, and fitted for college under Dr. Taylor, at Phillips' Academy, Andover, Mass., graduating from that institution in the Class of 1857. He entered Yale College, Class of 1861, but was obliged, by lung trouble, to withdraw during his Freshman Year. He married Miss Ada E., the eldest daughter of General A. N. Meylert, and they have two children, Robert M., now in partnership with his father, and Eliza, wife of Lieutenant Tate, U. S. A.

Mr. Scranton has been a prominent and efficient man in public life ever since he left college, and has done much to aid in the advancement of Scranton. He was appointed Internal Revenue Collector by President Lincoln, in 1862, and served until 1866. In 1867 he purchased an interest in *The Scranton Republican*, then a weekly, and, in November following, the first issue of the daily appeared. He assumed entire proprietorship a year later, and since that time the paper has gone steadily forward, always championing the Republican cause, yet alive to the interests of its own city. It has had much to do with moulding the political opinions of Northeastern Pennsyl-





Very Truly Yours  
J. A. Granton



agement and the fine executive ability which he inherited from his father, Joseph H. Scranton, it has grown to be the most prominent journal in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The list of papers that have come and gone since then is too long to be enumerated. It includes those which have been good, bad and indifferent—embracing almost every character of literature, from religion to atheism, from law and order to anarchy, say nothing of those of a purely commercial or technical character. All of them have had some good points, and their files contain much that will prove of interest to future writers on the rise and progress of Scranton. It was in some of the earlier publications that the notes which formed the basis of Dr. Hollister's \* history first made their appearance,

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vania, and has always maintained a manly, frank, thoughtful, dignified and consistent position. His signal service to the Republican party led to his appointment as Postmaster, by President Grant, in 1874, and his reappointment, by President Hayes, in 1878. He has been many times delegate to both National and State Conventions, and was elected as a Republican to the Forty-seventh, Forty-ninth, Fifty-first, Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Congresses. Mr. Scranton has secured many important measures for this district. He succeeded in securing the United States District Court here, in having the Federal Building located and constructed, and has been on the alert to serve his constituents in every manner possible.

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\* Horace Hollister, M. D., was born in Salem, Wayne County, Pa., Nov. 32, 1822. His parents, Alanson and Sally Hollister, had some years previous made their way through the Salem forest, when that portion of the historic "Shades of Death" still possessed almost the terrors that the fugitives from Wyoming found, and amid these isolated surroundings, the future historian of the valley grew to manhood on his father's farm. He received a common school education,

and many others, myself included, were frequent contributors.

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such as it was in those days, and also attended one term at the Academy at Bethany, but his keen mind made the most of these meager advantages. After spending the summers of 1837 and 1838 boating on the North Branch Canal, between Wilkes-Barre, Pittston and Philadelphia, he began the study of medicine, first with Dr. Charles Burr, of Salem, then with Ebenezer T. Losey, of Honesdale, and finally with Dr. B. H. Throop, at Providence. He graduated at the University of New York, in 1846, and at once returned to Providence, where he took the practice that Dr. Throop had gained, while the latter removed temporarily to Carbondale. Here he remained a faithful minister to the wants of the suffering, until called to his last resting-place. From his boyhood, Dr. Hollister displayed a deep interest in history and archaeology. Born at a time when the atrocities of the Red Men were within the memory of the living, and in a spot pregnant with the terrors which had been inflicted, he developed the strongest interest in all that pertained to them, and amid the exacting duties of a large, though not lucrative practice, found time to amass one of the largest and most valuable collections of Indian relics extant, embracing some twenty thousand implements, of every material known to aborigines. He also was a constant student of the early history of the Lackawanna Valley, and besides contributing extensively to the publications of the day, prepared a history, which is the standard authority for all this section.

He was a man of somewhat eccentric character, blunt, even almost rude in his manner, yet warm of heart, kind, and truly benevolent. None who suffered continued to do so did it lie within his power to alleviate their misery. He affiliated with no church, nor recognized any creed or dogma believed by the majority; yet he lived by the golden rule, and conscientiously, and numbered among his friends all who knew him. During the last years of his life, he was paralyzed and obliged to give up active practice; yet, until the end, he kept up his literary labors, and besides revising his history, which has passed through several editions, contributed to various magazines on both professional and general subjects. He was a graceful writer, a keen thinker, and both humorous and sarcastic. Although of an entirely different character, his literary attainments quite equaled those of his sister, Mrs. Lewis A. Watres, who will long be remembered as the sweet and gifted poetess, "Stella of Lackawanna." Dr. Hollister died a few years ago.



Mention has been made but casually of the early history of Hyde Park in the preceding notes. That which is not interwoven with such incidents as have been related, may not be out of place related specifically.

The earliest settler in Hyde Park is generally conceded to have been a Mr. Lindley, who made a clearing and erected a cabin, about what is now the intersection of Main and Washburn streets, in the spring of 1790. One of the Dolphs soon followed his example, and settled on the other side of the street, or path, as it then was. The third settler was Elder William Bishop, who built on the site of the Merrifield place. Early in this century, Joseph Fellows, who, though then residing in Albany, owned considerable property in this vicinity, was persuaded by his brother-in-law, Phillip Heermans, to lay off a portion of the village, and sell lots, and to the latter, therefore, must be accredited the conception of the enterprise. The community was a purely agricultural one, engaged in most laborious pioneer work, and grew very slowly, so that, at the end of the first quarter of the present century, it was scarcely more than a hamlet, with a church, a tavern, a school-house, and one general store, together with such handicrafts as are to be found at most rural centers.

Town meetings were first held in Providence Township as early as 1813, and were usually convened at the house of Stephen Tripp, just above Hyde Park, whose reputation for hospitality was wide, and who usually sustained it in a most substantial way, after the business of the day had been disposed of. As late as 1828, when what are now Lackawanna, Covington, Jefferson, Blakely, Greenfield and Scott, were included within its boundaries, the entire vote cast at the National election was 110, evenly divided between the Federal and Democratic Parties.

The "Old White Tavern," as the Heermans' House was known, was the changing place and dinner station of the stage line between Wilkes-Barre and Carbondale, and hence was a news and political center, much as Cotrill's Tavern was at Providence. After the establishment of a daily stage line, when the great, lumbering four-horse vehicles drew up at noon-time, bringing both mail and passengers, it was a general rendezvous; and under the proprietorship of Norvel D. Greene, became a hostelry justly celebrated for miles around. It was the scene of many a hard-fought battle in the political arena. The rivalry between Hyde Park and Razorville was so strong that the struggle for the polling place was finally compromised by an arrangement that was made to



hold the election in each place each alternate year, and on such occasions the voting was done at the "Old White Tavern." Mr. Greene was a public-spirited citizen, and usually took a hand in whatever was going on, and this only added to the popularity of his tavern.

The first school-house in Hyde Park was erected on Main and Division Streets, about 1816, and served as a place of worship for a number of years, or, until Calvin Washburn donated land for a church. Here was erected the first edifice for religious worship. Mr. Washburn was a member of the sect known as Christians, and the church was primarily for the worship of that denomination, although others were permitted to use it. In 1840 the village contained, besides the church and school-house, two stores, two taverns, two blacksmith and wagon shops, a cabinet and a couple of shoe shops, a few other establishments, and not over twenty dwellings. Charles Atwater kept a few goods for sale at his dwelling, prior to 1833; but in that year Judge William Merrifield erected the first exclusively mercantile building.

The Borough of Hyde Park was incorporated May 4, 1852. The records of the first election show that it was held at the residence of William Phinney, two years later, and resulted in the selection of

William Merrifield as Burgess. He was succeeded by Joseph Fellows, William Smith, E. Heermans and A. B. Stevens, all of whom have served several terms each. It is not my purpose, in these notes, to go extensively into the details of civil history any farther than is necessary to connect my memories into some semblance of a narrative. Local historians have very ably recorded everything of this character most fully and accurately. The details of the Bounty Tax, and the litigation it brought about, as well as the reasons for the separate existence of the borough as such, after it had been absorbed into the municipality of Scranton, can be found in the latest of these volumes. As a village it was noted for being somewhat clannish and jealous of the developments on the other side of the river; but it soon outgrew this narrowness and, as the march of improvement went on, streets were laid out, better bridges spanned the river, and the enterprises that sprung up in the "Hollow" ramified in every direction, it accepted the situation gracefully, and has now become a valued and vigorous portion of a great city.

#### A WORD AT CLOSING.

Though I lay down a weary pen, and have retired from many of the fields in which I was once active, I have not ceased to feel the keen interest

of other days in all that pertains to Scranton and its advancement materially, socially, intellectually and morally. The record I have made of the pluck and indomitable perseverance of the founders of the city, the contrasts that I have drawn of the valley to-day and half a century ago, the experiences, the vicissitudes, the failures and the achievements, all carry with them lessons, which, I trust, may be of profit to the younger men, all of whom can accomplish as much in the next half century as has been done in the past. That they will strive to do so for the honor of the city in which we take such just pride, is my earnest wish, so that when those of them who are now in the prime of manhood shall put aside the last sheets of their reminiscences, at the end of a longer life than is vouchsafed to most men, it will be at the mark of a transition fully as wonderful, and, with as much satisfaction as do I now, may they write

VALE.













